

## Government Programme 2015-2019: Highlights

The new government programme for the year 2015-2019, entitled “Achieving Meaningful Change”, was officially presented by Mauritian President Kailash Purryag on January 27, 2015.

- a) **Economy:** Develop **new pillars** for economic growth (regional **bunkering** hub, **ocean economy**, duty free shopping paradise initiative and **ICT** enabled services sectors), consolidate traditional sectors of sugar, tourism, manufacturing, tourism, financial services; promote expansion of business in Africa, setting up of **Techno Park** to promote cross-sectoral innovation, new **SME bank**, ratio of Public sector debt to GDP to be reduced to 50 per cent by 2018
- b) **Agriculture:** Diversification of sugar sector into ethanol production, sucro-chemicals etc, **large scale production** of vegetables and other food products on a pooled or clustered basis, promote **natural farming** and **organic production**, setting up of special **livestock zones** for cattle, goat and pig production, strengthen the **Cooperatives Movement**
- c) **Ocean economy:** New ministry created, **legal framework** and a unified regulatory body to be put in place to license, supervise, monitor and regulate the activities of ocean related economic operators, **technical co-operation** and **financial assistance** to be sought from international organisations and donor countries, promotion of research expeditions for **fossil fuel** and other **minerals**
- d) **Financial Services: Substance** building within Mauritian jurisdiction to be accelerated, development of wealth management, asset management and positioning of Mauritius as a centre for private placements, trading of bonds and other financial instruments, **extension of network of Double Taxation Agreements** and Investment Partnership and Protection Agreements
- e) **ICT and Innovation:** deployment of high speed connectivity through **Fibre-to-the-Home** (FTTH) and 4G island-wide, **Broadband** Penetration of 60% by December 2015, **new cyber-cities** to be set up in the North, East and West, make Mauritius ‘virtual office’ of Africa by promoting **high-end value added services** such as Knowledge Outsourcing, Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) and Legal Process Outsourcing (LPO), **Free broadband** internet connectivity through Wi-Fi network to be made available in public places
- f) **Airport and Seaport:** transformation of SSR International Airport into regional **aviation hub** and Port Louis Harbour into international **maritime hub**, ‘airport city’ to be developed, to house wide range of aviation and commercial activities
- g) **International relations:** Establishment of an Embassy in Saudi Arabia, conclusion of **comprehensive economic partnership agreements and preferential trade agreements**, enhancing market access in traditional markets, pursue deepened economic engagement with Africa, conclusion of the comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Europe and Tripartite COMESA/SADC/EAC/ FTA Negotiations, develop strategic economic partnership with emerging economies, with particular focus on the **BRICS**