



# REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



## SUPPORT AND CARE TO THE ELDERLY: THE MAURITIAN EXPERIENCE

12<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING  
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Presentation  
by

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**SOLIDARITY AND**

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# REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



Population : **1.25 M**

Independence:

**12 March 1968**

Republic:**1992**

Area : **2040 km<sup>2</sup>**

Capital : **Port Louis**

Languages:

**English, French, Creole,  
Hindi, Telegu, Marathi,  
Urdu, Mandarin & Arabic**

Unemployment Rate:**8.0%**

Inflation Rate: **3.5 %**

Education rate: **90%**

GDP Growth: **3.3 %**

GDP per Capita **USD9,000**

Economic Pillars: **Agro**

**Industry, Manufacturing,  
Tourism, Financial  
services, ICT and Sea food  
Hub**



# WELFARE STATE

- Universal Basic Retirement Pension
- Free Public Transport for elderly and disabled
- Free Health Care
- Free education from Pre-Primary to Tertiary



# AIMS OF THE MINISTRY:

- Promote and enhance social protection and national solidarity
- Empower disabled and elderly persons and enhance their quality of life
- Rehabilitate and integrate juvenile offenders in the mainstream society

# TREND IN AGEING POPULATION

Year	% of Elderly persons aged 60 and above
1972	6 %
2000	9 %
2013	13 %
2050	30 %

Total Population 1.25 Millions

(Source: Statistics Mauritius)

# LIFE EXPECTANCY

Year	Male	Female
2005	68.47	75.57
2007-2012	69.61	76.78
2012-2017	70.57	77.49
2042-2047	74.83	79.97

(Source: Statistics Mauritius)

# PENSION SUPPORT RATIO

Years	Ratio
2011	8.5:1
2021	5.6:1
2031	3.7:1
2041	3.1:1
2051	2.6:1

Number of Persons of working age (15-59) per old-age pensioner (aged 60 years and over)

(Source: Statistics Mauritius)



# CHALLENGES OF AGEING

- Sustainability of the Welfare State
- New health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, Alzheimer and Dementia
- Health Care services particularly expenditure in gerontology and geriatric
- Need for residential care homes and specialized ones to take care of the elderly persons with severe disabilities
- Reduction in workforce
- Ensuring the security, protection and rights of the elderly.
- Widening of the intergenerational gap
- Increased need for formal and informal carers
- Feminisation of Ageing
- Appropriate infrastructures for the Elderly such as housing units, user-friendly public transport as well as easy and safe access to infrastructures including public & private building



# COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS

- “Active and Healthy Ageing” Government Programme  
2012- 2015
- “a deeply humanist philosophy and determination to ensure that the elderly enjoy dignity and respect in their retirement”  
National Policy on Ageing 2008

# NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING (2008)

## **Core Principles:**

- Development Approach - Active Ageing
- Older persons and Development
- Advancing Health and Well-being into Old Age
- Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environment



# SERVICES AND BENEFITS TO ELDERLY:

- Income Security
- Psycho-social support
- Health Care
- Protection and Security

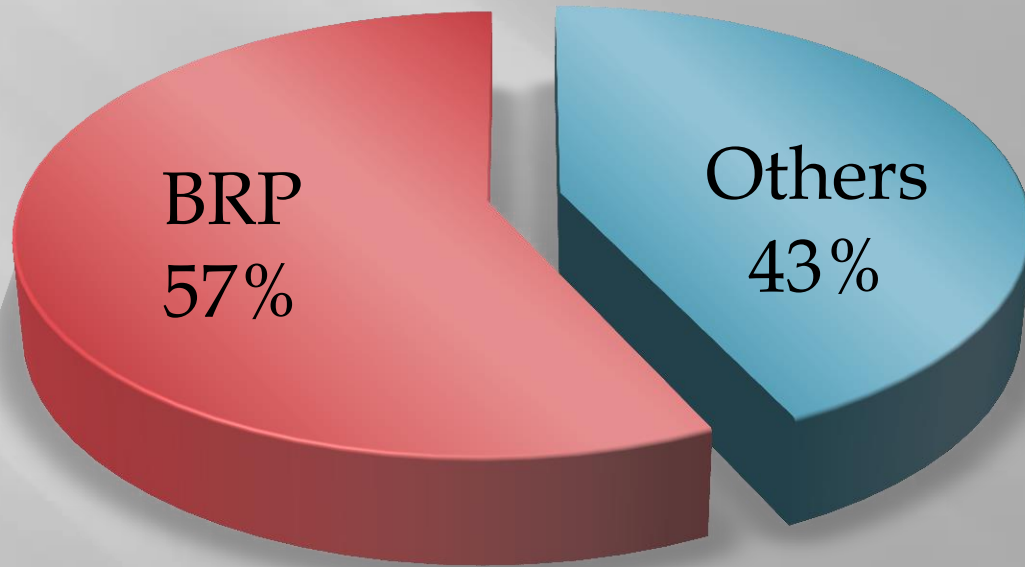
# INCOME SECURITY

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar-Universal Non- Contributory Basic Retirement Pension(BRP)

<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Mauritian Rupees (MUR)</i>	<i>US Dollars (\$)</i>
	<i>2014</i>	<i>2014</i>
60-89 years	3623	120.09
90-99 years	10,789	357.93
Centenarians	12,300	408.60

Ministry`s Budget - 16% of National Budget

# Budget for BRP- 57% of Ministry`s Budget



**2<sup>nd</sup> pillar - Contributory Pension Scheme -  
National Pension Act**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar - National Savings Fund**

**4<sup>th</sup> Pillar - Private Occupational Pension  
Scheme**

**5<sup>th</sup> Pillar - Financial Support by Government**

# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SOCIAL AID ACT 1983

- Rent Allowance to elderly living alone
- Social Assistance
- Allowance to purchase Dentures
- Incontinence Allowance to elderly over 75 years
- Income Support
- Funeral Grant
- Carer's Allowance
- Grant for the purchase of medicine
- Free issue of assistive devices such as Wheelchairs, Hearing Aids and Spectacles



# PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

## I. Network of Senior Citizens



- Senior Citizens Council set up under Senior Citizens Council Act (1985)
- Operates under the Ministry
- 725 Regional Senior Citizens Associations
- 80 000 Members



## 2. Residential Recreational Centres

- **Leisure and Recreational Activities:**

- Three Residential Recreation Centres

- A fourth one will be constructed by 2016

# 3. Elderly Day Care Centers

- Educational talks
- Adult Literacy courses
- Computer Literacy classes
- Handicrafts and Embroidery classes
- Proper Cooking methods through Home economics classes
- Group counselling sessions on topics relating to Health Promotion, Welfare and Security of Elderly



## 4. Elderly Village

- Elderly widows living alone in “elderly village”  
(Residence Bois Savon)

## 5. Get Together Programme

- Elderly living alone

## 6. “ADOPT A CENTENARIAN”

120 centenarians:       -113 females  
                                  -17 males

- Visit to Centenarians by Senior Citizens Associations to provide psychological support.



# 7. TRAINING OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CARERS

- **Training of Formal Carers since 2010**
- **Training of Informal Carers started in 2013**

# HEALTH CARE

## I. Free Health Care

- Regional Hospitals
- Community Health Centres
- Specialised Public Hospitals
- Medi Clinics

## 2. PREVENTIVE CARE

- YEARLY ANTI -INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME
- HEALTH CLUBS
- DOMICILIARY MEDICAL CARE





## 3. REHABILITATIVE CARE

- Physiotherapist/occupational therapists care
- Demonstration on techniques of activities of daily living
- Psychosocial support to the elderly through mental rehabilitation

# PROTECTION AND SECURITY

- Proclamation of the Protection of the Elderly Persons Act (2005) in 2006 .
- Setting up of a network of the Elderly Watch by volunteers, Elderly Unit, Monitoring Committee and hot lines.
- New budgetary measure- provision of personal Alarm Bracelets/ pendants

# OBSERVATORY ON AGEING

- Carry out research on the socio-economic impact of ageing
- Operational since October 2012
- A first report on:
  - Health
  - Housing
  - Leisure and Recreational facilities
  - Security and Protection

# GLOBAL AGE WATCH INDEX

HELP AGE INTERNATIONAL

- Mauritius ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among African Countries and 33<sup>rd</sup> worldwide on the Global Age/Watch Index 2013.
- Mauritius as top African Country having a universal non-contributory pension.

# WAY FORWARD

- Ongoing research by the Observatory on Ageing
- National Policy on Ageing 2014
- Action Plan for the Elderly 2014-2024
- A Mauritius Institute on Ageing.

*THANK YOU*