



**IFA 12TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING**

**HEALTH, SECURITY AND COMMUNITY**

**10-13 JUNE 2014  
HICC HYDERABAD  
INDIA**

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SOCIAL  
INTEGRATION  
OF THE ELDERLY  
THE MAURITIAN CONTEXT**

***PRESENTED***

***BY***

**ANBANADEN VEERASAMY,  
OSK**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL  
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

## Structure of Presentation

- Background
- Global Ageing
- Ageing in Mauritius
- Major implications of Ageing
- Policy Response to Ageing in Mauritius
- Poverty Alleviation and Social Integration of the Elderly
- Help Age Global Age Watch Index
- Emerging challenges
- Conclusion

# Background

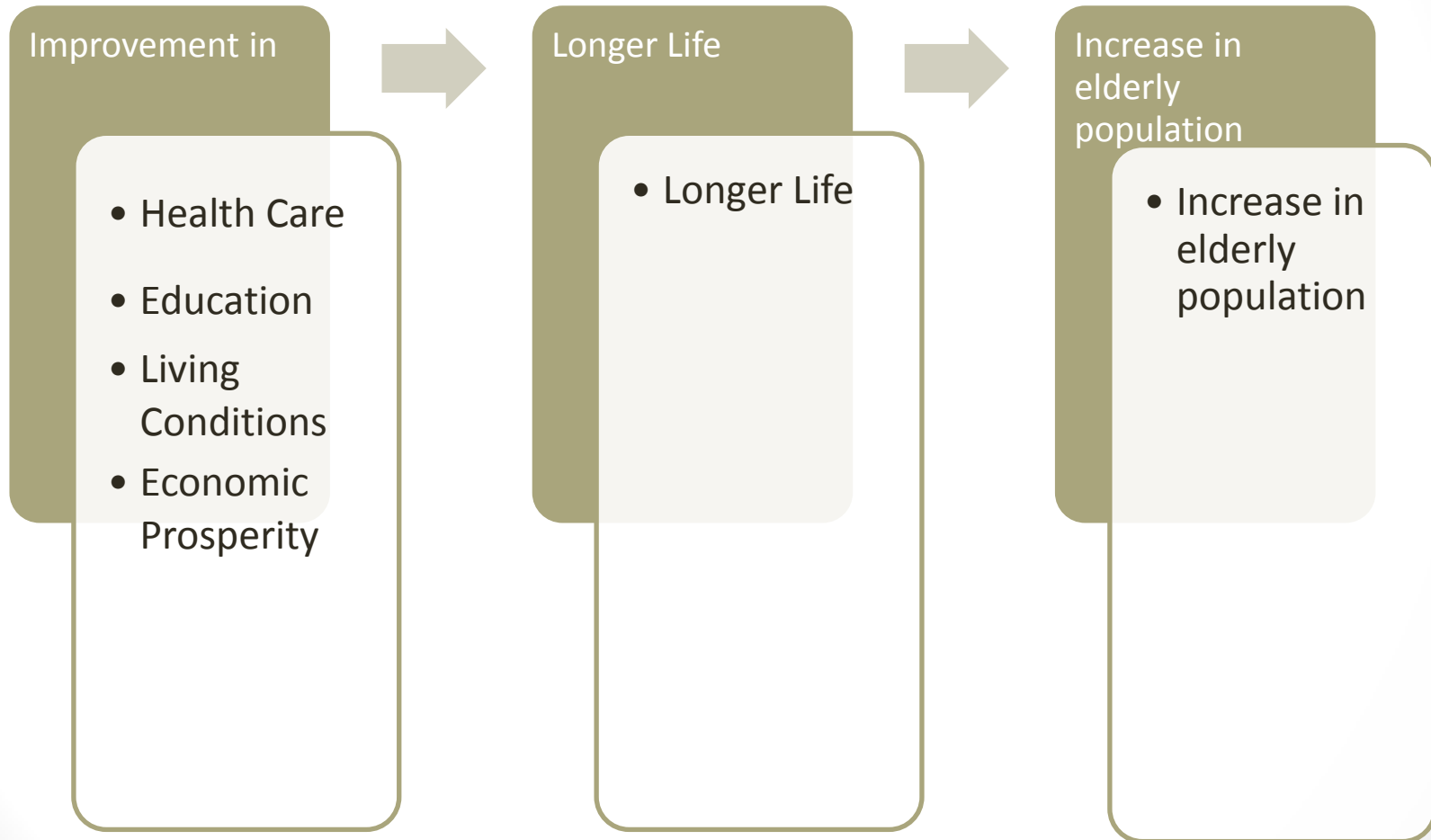
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- **Republic of Mauritius comprises several islands (Mauritius being the main one) covering land area of some 2000 sq. Km and located in the southern part of the Indian Ocean.**
  - **Population of 1.3 Million with ancestors from various continents (Asia /Africa / Europe)**
  - **Multiracial, Multicultural, Multilingual and Multi-religious**
  - **English is the official language, French and Creole widely spoken and some oriental languages taught at schools.**
  - **Agriculture, Tourism, Textile and Financial Services.**
  - **GDP per capita: approximately 9,000 US \$**

## Background (cont)



- Colonised successively by Dutch, French (1715-1810) and British (1810-1968)
- Labour during colonisation periods: Slaves from Africa and Indian Indentured workers (after abolition of slavery in 1835).
- Political system : British Parliamentary Model.
- Independence in 1968 and Republic within the Commonwealth in 1992.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister – Dr. The RT Hon. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam , known as the Father of the Nation with ancestors from Bihar, India.
- Current Prime Minister – Dr. The Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, son of the Father of the Nation

# Global Ageing



# According to Hep Age International

## By 2050

- Older people aged 60 and above will outnumber those under 15 years
- Older people will comprise 1/5 global population (2 Billion)
- Fast increase in 'oldest old' (80 & over)
- Centenarians will be approx . 3 Million

# Ageing in Mauritius

- Mauritius is no exception to the global ageing phenomenon
- Elderly population (60 and above) - expected increase from 14% of total population presently to almost **30%** by 2050.
- Pensioner Support Ratio<sup>1</sup> expected to decrease from **9%** presently to about **3%** by 2050

1: Number of persons of working age (15-59 years) per old-age pensioner (aged 60 years and above)



# Major Implications of Ageing

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graph TD; A[Major Implications of Ageing] --- B[Income]; A --- C[Feminisation of Ageing]; A --- D[Health]; A --- E[Security]; A --- F[Care and Respect]; A --- G[Isolation];
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Income

Feminisation  
of Ageing

Health

Security

Care and  
Respect

Isolation

# Policy Response to Ageing in Mauritius

2001

- National Policy on Ageing with emphasis on **Welfare** Perspective (based on Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing – 1982)

2008

- Revised National Policy on Ageing with emphasis on **developmental** approach and **Active Ageing**(based on Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing – 2002)

2014

- New National Policy on Ageing (2014-2024)-Consultations with all stakeholders completed in May 2014

# Poverty Alleviation and Social Integration of the Elderly

- Historically, long tradition of **'Care and Respect'**.
- After independence in 1968, tradition reinforced by vision of the Father of the Nation.
- Strong **Political Commitment** of all successive Governments for protection of the elderly.
- Statement of the Hon. Prime Minister in the Preface of the National Policy on Ageing in 2008:

**'In recognition of the sacrifices of our elders in building this nation, my Government will continue to provide for the protection of our senior citizens'.**

- Adoption of **Comprehensive Social Security** System based mainly on Poverty Alleviation and Social Integration of the Elderly.

## **Multi-Pillar Pension Scheme**

**Universal Non-Contributory**

**Public Sector Pension**

**National Pension Scheme**

**Provident Fund (National Savings Scheme)**

**Private Pension Scheme**

# Social Assistance (Means Tested)



# Support Measures / Facilities / Benefits to the Elderly

- Free Medical Services
- Access to a network of health centres
- Free vaccination yearly to build immunity against seasonal flu
- Free monthly medical visit to elderly aged 90 years +
- Free monthly domiciliary medical visit to bed-ridden elderly persons aged 75 years and above.

## Support Measures / Facilities / Benefits to the Elderly (cont.)

Free  
travelling in  
public  
transport

Carers  
allowance  
to elderly  
persons  
needing  
constant  
care and  
attention

Centre for  
specialised  
services for  
elderly  
persons  
with severe  
disabilities

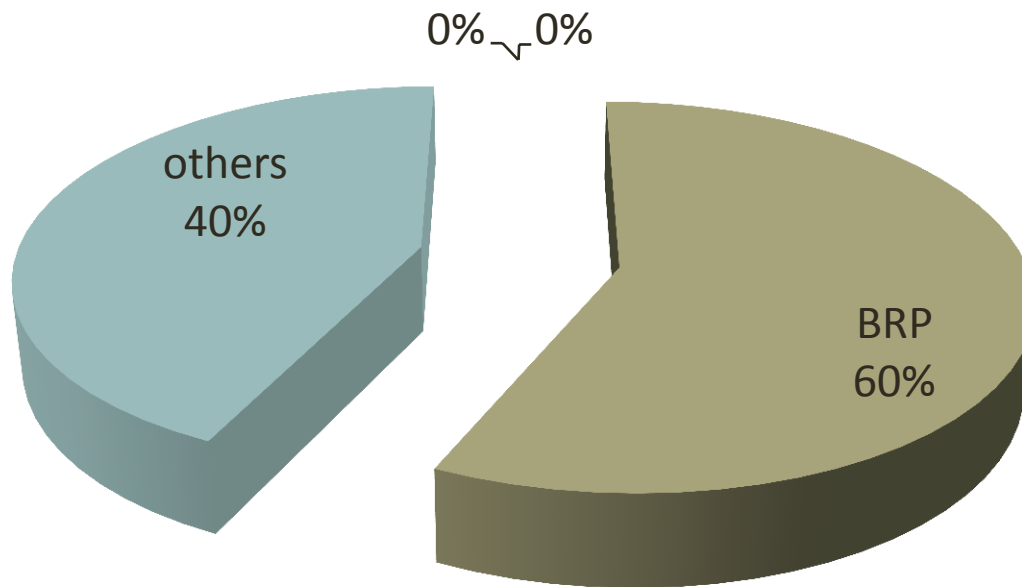
Training of  
Formal and  
Informal  
Carers.

Get  
together  
programme  
for needy  
elderly  
living alone

# Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Reform Institutions

- Provision of various types of pension, benefits and assistance to the elderly population.

## Ministry's Budget - Rs 14 Billion





# Senior Citizens Council

- **Apex Body** with the main objective of implementing activities and projects for welfare of the elderly.
- It promotes the concept of '**Active and Healthy Ageing**'.
- Some 725 Senior Citizens Associations grouping some **80,000** members from all regions **affiliated** to Council
- Executive Committee of 20 Members of whom 10 **democratically** elected Elderly persons
- Key role in motivating Members to remain **active** and encouraging their **social integration**



# Senior Citizens Council (cont.)



## Main Activities

Seminars and workshops

Preventive Health Programme

Games, Story Telling, Quiz, Drama and Dance Competitions

Best Senior Citizens Associations Award

Legal Counselling Programme

Courses on ICT / Management of Associations

Financial Support to Member Associations

News Bulletin



# Social Welfare

## Elderly Day Care/Social Welfare/ Community Centres

- Adult Literacy Course
- Keep Fit exercises
- Access to information / education
- Training in various fields
- Organisation of social / cultural / recreational activities
- Intergenerational programme
- Painting and embroidery
- Educational talks
- Promoting activities for elders to share knowledge and experience

# Leisure and Recreational Facilities

- 3 Hotel type Recreation Centres for the Elderly in the West, East and North of the country to enable the elderly enjoy **residential leisure facilities**.
- 2 nights stay (full board) against a nominal fee.
- Games, Leisure and Recreational activities
- ‘Senior Citizens Tours’ Programme
- Fourth Residential Centre to start soon in the south of the country
- A total of some 30,000 senior citizens take advantage of the facilities yearly.



# Productive Ageing

- Promotion of the concept of Productive Ageing
- Retirement Age increased from **60 to 65 years**
- Payment of the Universal Basic Retirement Pension remained **at 60 years**.
- **Working after retirement**, either on full time or part time basis or on contract as Advisers and Consultants (private and public sector).
- Skilled and semi-skilled workers in the **private sector**, agricultural and construction industry workers, employees in the security sector, private vehicle drivers and household workers **continue to work** after the retirement age.
- Voluntary **Social Workers** (NGOs and Old Age Homes)
- Active participation in activities organised by **Senior Citizens Associations**
- **Educational** and training opportunities to enable the Elderly take full advantage of productive ageing.

# Centenarians

- As at 31 March 2014, out of a population of 1.3 Million, Mauritius had 116 centenarians among whom 100 females.
- On the **celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** of every centenarian, the Hon Minister of Social Security, NS & RI and other eminent personalities attend the function to hand over cash and other gifts to the centenarian.
- One off payment of Rs.20,000 (nearly **670 US\$** as cash gift)
- A monthly pension of 12,300 Mauritian Rupees (equivalent to **\$410**) provided to every centenarian
- Allowance for purchase of medicine
- Adoption of Centenarian Programme



# Residential Care Home

- The policy is to encourage the Elderly to remain within the family unit.
- However, with the rapid pace of socio-economic development, the need for residential care home is inevitable
- Some 20 homes provided with **financial subsidy** to provide residential care facilities to needy elderly persons.
- In addition, some **30 private residential care homes** provide residential care facilities to those elderly who can afford to pay for the services.
- The Residential Care Home Board set p to exercise **control on the standard** of residential care in Homes.
- Special residential complex for **lonely elderly widows**

# Protection of the Elderly

Protection of the Elderly Persons Act. (2005). Mechanisms under the Act to ensure protection of the Elderly:

- Elderly Persons Monitoring Committee
- Welfare and Elderly Persons' Protection Unit
- 20 Elderly Watch Committees
- Operation of a hotline emergency system
- Sensitization campaigns and workshops with all stakeholders
- Family Counselling and mediation



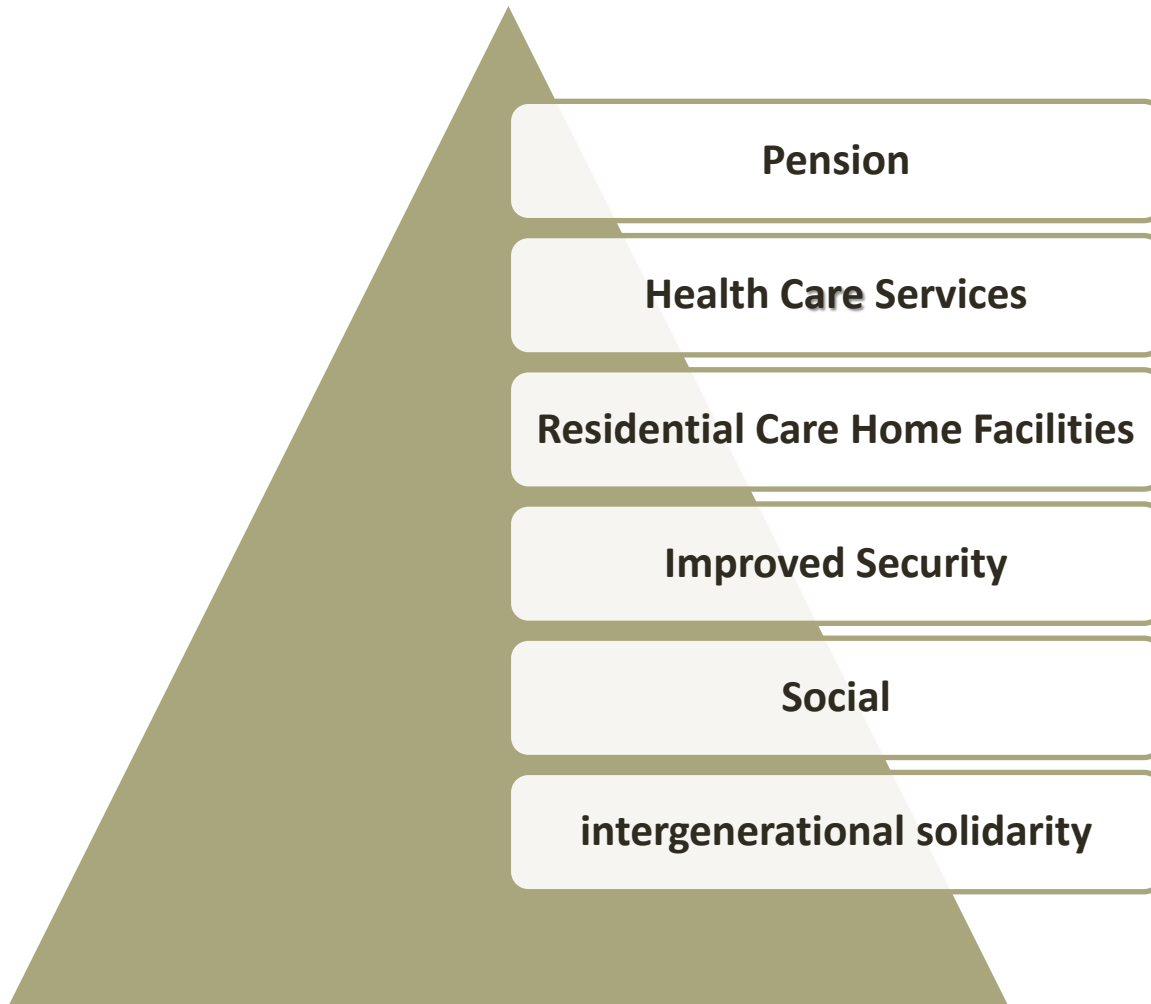
# Research on Ageing

- In 2012, setting up of an **Observatory** on Ageing to conduct surveys and research on various aspects of ageing to facilitate policy formulation and decision-making process in the sector.
- First report submitted in April 2014.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India, is providing technical support to the observatory.

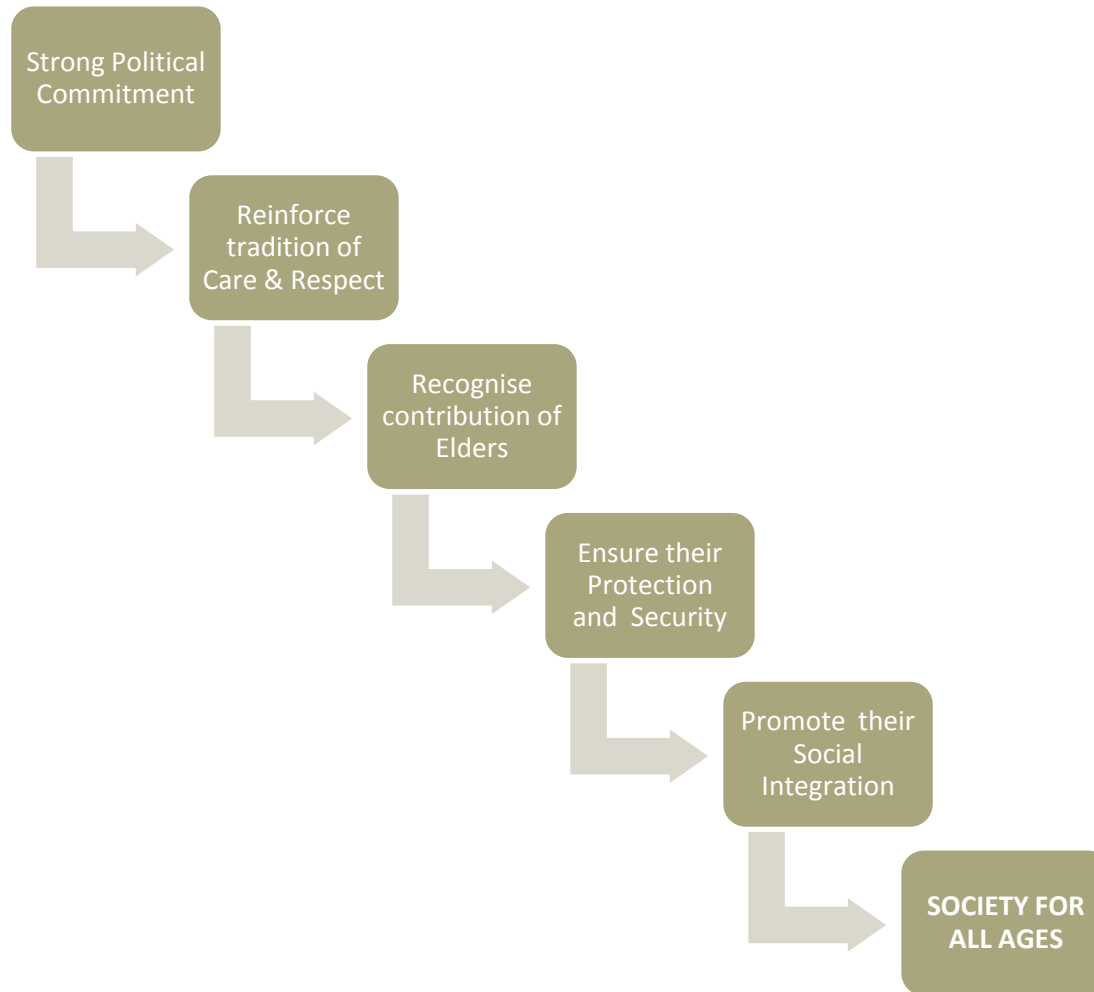
# Help Age International Global Age Watch Index

- In October 2013, Help Age International launched the **Global Age Watch Index**.
- Index based on survey on **91 countries**.
- It is meant to measure the **quality of life and well being** of elderly persons around the world. Index based on old people's income status, health, employment and education and enabling environment.
- Mauritius classified as the **1<sup>st</sup> position** in the African Region and **33<sup>rd</sup>** among the 91 countries.
- **GDP per Capita** not necessarily lead to better results for older people.
- Countries with History of **Progressive Social Policies** bring more benefits to the elderly population.

# Emerging Challenges



# CONCLUSION



**Thanking you**