

**OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
PLANS DEVELOPED UNDER THE
INSTITUTIONAL GAPS AND NEEDS
ASSESSMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROVISIONS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACT
2020 [IGNA] PROJECT**

SPEECH

FOR

HON KAVYDASS RAMANO

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

MONDAY 03 JULY 2023 AT 09 30 HRS

VENUE: EBONY 1, HENESSY PARK HOTEL, EBENE

Mr Ravi Sonea, Permanent Secretary of the Environment and Climate Change Division of my Ministry;

Mrs Sarita Meeheelaul, Director of the Department of Climate Change of my Ministry;

Representatives of Landell Mills and Linpico;

Members of the Press.

All Protocol Observed.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be in your midst this morning for the opening of this workshop to validate the report on the Human Resource Development Strategy and Capacity Development Plans which have developed under the Institutional Gaps And Needs Assessment to implement the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2020 project.

In 2021, further to the coming into force of the Climate Change Act 2020, my Ministry has sought technical assistance from the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund Technical Cooperation Facility, to the tune of Euro 104, 000, for the implementation of the provisions of the Act. The main

purpose of this project is to provide recommendations on the required institutional arrangement and empowerment of concerned institutions in Mauritius and Rodrigues in order to mainstream climate change in their respective mandates, which is in line with the objective of the Climate Change Act 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You would recall that the Climate Change Act was enacted by this Government in order to comply with the commitments taken by the Republic of Mauritius under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement in our combat against climate change. The aim of this piece of legislation would help in better preparedness of the present and future generations against the worsening climatic conditions which unfortunately would be further aggravated with the forecasted 1.5 degree Celsius temperature rise within the next decade. This legal framework also provides for a reporting mechanism on climate change mitigation and adaptation actions for both the public and the private sector; and would allow for strengthening of our institutional framework so as to allow for an efficient delivery in matters pertaining to climate change.

As such, provisions have been made for undertaking various measures, namely:-

- (i) setting up of a dedicated Department of Climate Change to, inter alia, develop policies, programmes and action plans relating to climate change;
- (ii) formulation of a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for key adaptation sectors, namely, agriculture, biodiversity, coastal zones, infrastructure, the port, marine environment, tourism, fisheries and water;
- (iii) formulation of a National Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan for key mitigation sectors, namely, energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry, and waste;
- (iv) setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Council on Climate Change under the chairpersonship of the Honourable Prime Minister in order to national climate change objectives, goals and targets; and
- (v) setting up of a Climate Change Committee, consisting of all concerned Ministries and Departments as well representative of the private sector and the civil society, to coordinate the preparation of all reports relating to climate change as well as the implementation of respective strategies and action Plans.

I am pleased to announce that till date, the Honourable Prime Minister has personally chaired two meetings of the Inter-

Ministerial Council on Climate Change whereby major issues were discussed and endorsed namely the targets set in the 2021 updated Nationally Determined Contributions, the measures which would be undertaken by various Ministries and Departments under the NDC Action Plan as well as the National Position which had been formulated by Mauritius in the context of its participation to the 27th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in November last year.

As regards the Climate Change Committee, same is being chaired by the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry who is closely coordinating progress on the implementation of the NDC Action Plan as well as discussing the updating of strategic documents and resource mobilisation for climate actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is a cross cutting issue which requires urgent and concrete actions from every segment of the society. It is along the principle and philosophy of leaving no one behind that my Ministry has adopted a participatory approach for all its climate change endeavours, integrating all community groups and segments of society including private sector organisations, businesses, academics, architects, engineers, NGOs, women, youth, and the civil society. It is only through a collective approach that we would be able to contribute to help address the challenges posed by climate change. It is against this background that the Act has provided for duties of both public

and private institutions to include mainstreaming of climate change into sectoral strategies, action plans and other policies and report on sectoral greenhouse gas emissions for a national greenhouse gas inventory.

In order to identify the most appropriate organisational structure that would allow the fulfilments of the functions of the Department of Climate Change as well as concerned public and private institutions as stipulated in the Act, the Consultant from Landell Mills and Linpico, hired by the European Union, conducted a baseline analysis through surveys and bilateral consultations which had been carried out with some 60 institutions, both in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Additionally, several awareness raising sessions were held with personnel of concerned institutions, including at higher management level, on mainstreaming climate change in sectoral policies, strategies and action plans. Capacity building was also conducted for officers of the Environment Commission of Rodrigues and its Climate Change Committee.

Recommendations were thus based on these intensive broad multi-sectoral engagements and culminated into key outputs namely human resource requirements, that is staffing, and capacity building needs as well as a costed Action Plan with timelines for a fully functional and operational Department of Climate Change and for concerned institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Institutional capacity development is fundamental to achieve our commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Moreover, in order to mainstream climate change across all sectors and levels of governance locally, there is need to strengthen the national institutional capacities. In this regards, a five-year capacity development plan has been developed at systemic, institutional and individual levels, and through seven modes of delivery namely, Project Design, Coursework, Training, Hands-on Training, Massive Online Open Course, Policy Dialogue and Communities of Practice. The proposed capacity building programme is expected to be delivered shortly. Under this project, our Rodriguan counterparts have also been considered and the validation of the deliverable for Rodrigues is planned for next month.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Climate Change Act of 2020, which is amongst a few in the African region, demonstrates Government's determination to ensure the well-being of our fellow citizens, the protection of our infrastructure and the smooth running of all our socio-economic sectors. It outlines institutional and legislative structure to allow a holistic and transversal management. The institutional structure provided in the Act would make it possible to put in place strategies and action plans that can accompany the massive investments required to implement the Nationally

Determined Contributions by mobilisation of finance from both national budget and from development partners. Through this legislative framework, we can strengthen our resilience to the impacts of climate change and move towards a green economy.

The implementation of the recommendations of the report would thus enable this objective to be fulfilled. It rests on close collaboration of each and every institution. I thus urge for an active engagement of all stakeholders towards meeting the objective of the Act to enhance the resilience of our ecosystem and livelihood of the community.

On a concluding note, I would like to extend my gratitude to the European Union for the technical assistance provided to my Ministry for this project and continuously supporting the initiatives of Government for a climate change resilient and low emission country.

I now have the pleasure to declare this workshop open and wish all participants present fruitful deliberations.

I thank you all for your attention.

K.R.