

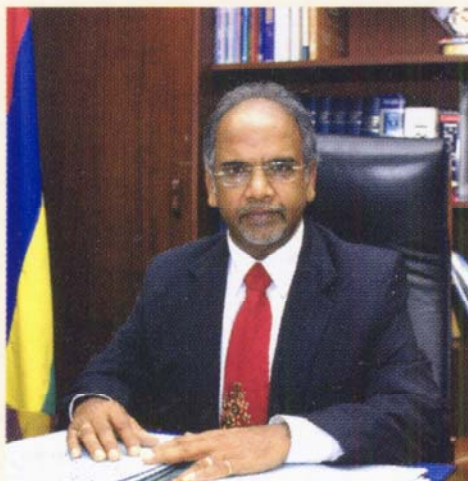
Quality Initiatives  
for  
A World Class  
Quality Education  
2006

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

Chinese proverb

Let's begin this Quality Journey... together.

A Ministry of Education & Human Resources Initiative



### *Minister's Message*

*On assuming office on 7 July 2005, I set myself the task of working towards the realization of the Government's vision of a World Class Quality Education.*

*There is to-day, a national consensus for fundamental reforms in our education sector, with an overall emphasis on*

#### *QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL.*

*Quality is a dynamic concept and in the context of education, it invariably incorporates notions of relevance to the socio-cultural circumstances, greater equity of access as well as achievements, learning environment, processes and resources, community support and parental involvement, strong school management and leadership.*

*This national consensus on quality education is in harmony with global quest for continuously improving learning of all children, youth and adults.*

*There is also, however a diversity of opinions about the nature, scope and modalities of such reforms. This is a healthy situation as Education is indeed a complex and dynamic sector. And one should avoid any dogmatic, one-size-fits-all approach.*

*Consultation, participation and consensus building, combined with leadership, are essential for the successful implementation of any reform agenda.*

*This is the approach I have adopted. I sincerely believe that the best way to proceed in our mission is to concentrate on those initiatives that will take us to our final destination:*

**A WORLD CLASS QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A WORLD CLASS SOCIETY**

**DHARAM GOKHOL**

**Minister of Education & Human Resources**



# V I S I O N

Government Programme 2005 - 2010

- *My Government* sought and obtained a mandate from the people to take all necessary measures to create a society where there are opportunities for all, a more inclusive society, a society where there is equality of treatment before the law and by all agencies whether public or private. My Government has a clear mandate to bring in a new economic model through the democratization of the Mauritian economy.
- *My Government* aims at gearing our country towards a future that is prosperous for all, where economic success will be equally characterized by equity, ethics and social justice.
- *My Government* is strongly committed to National Unity and nation building will be a guiding principle of Government policy over its five-year mandate. Government will govern with the people and will at all times PUT PEOPLE FIRST.

## *Ministry of Education & Human Resources*

- *My Government* is committed to carrying out fundamental reforms in education with a view to providing World Class Quality education to enable young Mauritians to be employable in new sectors of the economy, to have more fulfilling jobs and also to be competitive at the international level.

# QUALITY INITIATIVES FOR 2006

## QUALITY EDUCATION

- The importance of good quality education was resolutely reaffirmed as a priority for UNESCO at a Ministerial Round Table on quality education held in Paris in 2003.
- Our education system should provide for an integrated and comprehensive approach to education based upon the following four pillars:
  - Learning to know
  - Learning to do
  - Learning to live together
  - Learning to be

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Quality education depends on quality teaching.
- The overall effort during 2006 will be to shift emphasis from teaching to teaching and learning within the existing curriculum.
- The curriculum reform agenda will be pursued.
- Technical teams will start developing programme proposals and materials.
- Teachers, with the help of the inspectorate, will be encouraged to use an active learning framework whereby the involvement of pupils and students will be taken on board.
- The teacher training and continuous professional development (CPD) of teachers will be a priority as from 2006.
- Workshops and seminars highlighting latest developments in quality teaching and modern pedagogical methods will be regularly organised to enhance teaching effectiveness.
- Teachers are invited to keep in view, all the time, the four pillars of education and should strive to leave a lasting legacy of having been good teachers who shall be fondly remembered by pupils and students during their whole lifetime.

## THE BRIDGING THE GAP INITIATIVE

- A holistic and smooth development is the surest way to give a headstart to all our children.
- It is vital that there is a carefully planned and smooth transition of children from the pre-school to standard I.
- In the project 'Bridging the Gap Initiative', model classrooms of standard I will be prepared in 6 schools (including 1 ZEP school) in Mauritius and 1 in Rodrigues.
- All other schools will be supported and encouraged to put in place similar arrangements as provided for in the 6 model schools.
- Teachers of standard I will receive special training in order to improve the creativity, learning and personality development of all children.

### Special attention will be given to:

- Creativity-based activities
- Good class habits / Good sitting postures
- Numeracy and literacy skills
- Reading and oral expressions
- Good handwriting habits

## **NUMERACY & LITERACY**

- Numeracy and literacy skills are essential for the child's educational development and achievements.
- These skills need to be acquired in the early stages of schooling.
- The level of numeracy and literacy of each child from standard I to standard III will be closely monitored.
- The overall objective is for each child to attain a satisfactory level of literacy and numeracy before proceeding to standard IV.

## **READING CULTURE**

- Library services will be revitalized to inculcate a reading culture among our pupils and students.
- Teachers will play a key role in stimulating a love for reading among pupils and students.
- A Library Excellence Award will be launched.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (S.E.N)**

- A new policy for children with special needs will be adopted.
- Action will be initiated to address S.E.N in a focused and progressive manner.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WILL BE ENCOURAGED AT ALL LEVELS**

- The weekly plan of work of teachers will be formalised and students will be provided with subject roadmaps at the beginning of each term.
- The inspectorate will be strengthened to ensure effective implementation of agreed programme of work.
- Special attention will be given to indiscipline and absenteeism.
- The system of head boys, head girls and school prefects will be formalised.
- The functioning of School Councils and PTAs will be revisited in order to render them more effective.

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP**

- As from 2006, each school will have to formulate a school development plan (SDP), which will become the basis for developing the model school concept.
- The format of the SDP will be finalised by Directors (primary and secondary).
- A training workshop in SDP preparation will be organised for head teachers/rectors/inspectors and zone directors.
- A series of school management and leadership workshops will be organised to enhance the management and leadership skills of head teachers/inspectors/rectors and zone directors.
- Regular staff and departmental meetings, meetings of head teachers/inspectors/rectors and zone directors will become a regular practice.
- A proper system of monitoring will be put in place.
- These meetings will provide useful feedback to the regular management meetings chaired by the Minister.

## **MORNING ASSEMBLY**

- All schools/colleges will hold, at least twice a week, a morning assembly of 15 minutes.
- The national flag will be prominently displayed in the school premises.
- Before the beginning of the morning assembly, the national anthem will be played or sung.
- The morning assembly will be addressed by the head teacher/rector or any other speaker/guest speaker to be designated by the school/college in consultation with the zone director.
- The address will relate to school management, character building & personality development, social issues of community/national interest or any such issue that goes in the direction of promoting quality education.
- Morning assemblies will be privileged moments of collective reflection for positive attitude building and constructive behaviours.



## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- All schools will be encouraged to develop a yearly programme of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.
- Every school will be invited to organise an annual school open day.

## **PROVISION OF CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER**

- All schools will be equipped with fibre glass water tanks.
- An adequate number of water points will be provided.
- Water quality will be strictly monitored through a system of regular inspection and reporting by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.
- During dry seasons, arrangements will be made to ensure adequate supply of water in schools.

## **CLEAN TOILETS**

- The maintenance of toilets will be regularly monitored at the level of schools by head teachers and rectors.
- The renovation and construction of toilets will be pursued.

## **MAINTENANCE AND HOUSEKEEPING PROGRAMMES**

- A system of regular maintenance and good housekeeping, essential for creating a conducive environment for quality education, will be put in place.
- Plans for painting of school buildings at least once every four/five years will be implemented.
- Sports grounds and other infrastructural facilities will be properly maintained.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND CLEANLINESS**

- Zone directors will initiate the “Keep your environment clean campaign”.
- All schools will be provided with adequate large bins to be placed in appropriate places.

## **HEALTH PROGRAMMES**

- Specific actions will be taken towards the good health and well being of the school community.
- Targetted campaigns will be run to curb the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- A school health project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life.

## **EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

- Outstanding efforts and achievements will be recognised and rewarded.
- The Ministry will work out a series of Education Excellence Awards for schools and colleges.

## **SUCCESS**

- An implementation manual will be provided to each school and college.
- The involvement and support of all direct stakeholders – parents, teachers, head teachers, rectors, inspectors and zone directors – are essential for the successful implementation of the Quality Initiatives 2006.