

BUILDING A BETTER MAURITIUS

CREATING THE NEXT WAVE OF PROSPERITY

Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the Appropriation Bill 2014 be read a second time.

2. Mr Speaker, Sir, my third Budget builds on our past achievements and sticks to our vision of the future – that of becoming a high income nation, without absolute poverty, of Maurice Ile Durable and of a democratised economy.

3. As a nation we have always known that these goals would not be easy to achieve. But, in every single year since 2005 we have made progress and come closer to our long-term destination.

4. Our per capita income in 2005 was US 5,200 dollars. Today it is almost double at US 9,300 dollars.

5. Mr Speaker, Sir, we are three quarters of the way to becoming a high income nation – a goal that can be reached within the next six budgets.

6. This evening, Budget 2014 is about creating the next wave of prosperity to Build a Better Mauritius.

7. We have had wide consultations with stakeholders while preparing the Budget and have heard a rich diversity of views.

8. We are particularly in tune with the expectations of the less fortunate and most vulnerable. There are still families living in absolute poverty. They make up less than two per cent of our population - among the lowest absolute poverty levels in the world. But we cannot and will not ignore their plight. They expect Government to continue being compassionate, to go on standing by them and to help them find a way to a better life.

9. Mr Speaker, Sir, Budget 2014 responds in a positive and effective way to the hopes and aspirations of the population.

10. It opens vast new economic space that will bring about the next wave of prosperity.