

SHAPING RECOVERY CONSOLIDATING SOCIAL PROGRESS SUSTAINING GREEN MAURITIUS

Mr Speaker, Sir,

I move that the Appropriation Bill 2010 be read a second time.

2. The presentation of the 2010 Budget on a calendar year basis is another pillar of our reforms to adapt the budgeting process to new realities. It is a first for our country and it marks a break from a long tradition that has outlived its purpose.

3. It is also our fifth budget in four and a half years of tough challenges.

4. Like the previous budgets it has been prepared to reflect the high ideals of this Government and to meet the aspirations of our people.

5. It continues the progress achieved on the economic, social and environment fronts under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

6. More specifically, the 2010 Budget addresses in depth three main priorities:

First, shaping recovery to accelerate job creation.

Second, consolidating social progress to embed inclusive growth.

Third, sustaining Green Mauritius to mitigate the impact of climate change.

7. Mr Speaker, Sir, our country has survived the worst economic recession in many decades with minimum adverse impact. We are now seeing encouraging signs of a global recovery. We must seize the opportunities and shape our recovery so that the growth path can be more resilient.

8. And as we shape the recovery, we must also consolidate the social progress that we have worked so hard to achieve and sustain the vision of Green Mauritius. These are the three pillars of future development and they are the main themes of this Budget.

9. Mr Speaker, Sir, the four and a half years behind us were tough. Back in 2005, the population was facing the future with apprehension. To get out of this predicament, they gave this Government a mandate to rescue the country from '*l'état d'urgence économique*', to create employment at a rapid pace, and restore