

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

GENERAL ISSUES

Budget Measures Explanatory Notes (04.06.2020)

Part B – Other Budget Measures

B.1. Support from the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd (b) Education Sector

The DBM Ltd will provide the following loan facilities –

- (i) computer loans up to Rs 50,000 to parents for the purchase of laptops, printers and internet connections for online digital educational platforms; and
- (ii) loans up to Rs 1 million to private colleges for the Upgrade of IT Infrastructure including purchase of laptops, overhead projectors, printers to enable them to provide online courses to students.

Part C – Other Legislations

C.1. Special Education Needs Authority Act

The Special Education Needs Authority Act will be amended to extend the transitional period for the registration of the Special Education Needs Institutions until December 2020.

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GENERAL ISSUES

Budget Speech 2020-2021 (04.06.2020)

SECURING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Education

Mr Speaker, Sir,

1. Education is what will forge the Mauritius of tomorrow.
2. We need to secure an inclusive education system fully adapted to the new developmental needs of our economy and society.
3. We are allocating Rs 15 billion to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.
4. Government will invest in the renovation, upgrading and refurbishment of over 70 primary and secondary schools.
5. E-learning technologies are fundamental in improving access to and delivery of education. To this end -
 - (a) Government will invest some Rs 100 M in the deployment of wireless local area network in 155 secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues.
 - (b) A National e-Learning Platform will be developed to connect educators of secondary schools with their students.
 - (c) The DBM Ltd will provide financing facilities to households for acquisition of IT equipment for educational purpose.
6. As we move towards a knowledge based and innovation driven economy, we need to expand capacity, and have a greater diversity of courses especially in the fields of new technologies and innovation.
7. I am therefore coming up with a comprehensive package of incentives to encourage the top 500 institutions worldwide to set up branch campuses in Mauritius. They will benefit from -
 - (a) Tax holiday for the first eight years of operation; and
 - (b) Exemption of tax on IT and IT materials and equipment for the purpose of online education.
8. As we develop and modernise our education system, we also have to ensure its inclusiveness.
9. I am therefore earmarking an amount of Rs 138 million as the grant-in-aid to NGOs running Special Education Needs (SEN) Schools.

10. In addition, I am providing a one-off grant of Rs 100,000 to each Special Education Needs (SEN) school run by NGOs to help them improve their learning environment.

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(a) THE COVID-19 (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

&

(b) THE QUARANTINE BILL

(13.05.2020)

The Prime Minister....

Clause 14 is amending the Education Act to provide, during closure of educational institutions, for distance education and online learning programmes, including broadcast lessons and their modalities. Provisions are also being made for disciplinary procedures to be instituted against any teaching and non-teaching staff who, without reasonable excuse, fail to engage in distance education during the closure of educational institutions.

Moreover, the Minister of Education will be empowered to make necessary regulations to provide for a number of measures including social and physical distancing, attendance of non-teaching staff, dispensing of distance education, and other relevant measures during and after the temporary closure of educational institutions.

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GENERAL ISSUES

YEAR 2020

President Address for the Opening of First Session

EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

(24.01.2020)

Honourable Members,

1. Education is at the core of Government's inclusiveness agenda. It will therefore take measures to ensure a fair access to high quality education for all.
2. Government will come up with concrete actions to further improve performance at all levels.
3. Starting from academic year 2020, textbooks and e-books are being provided free of charge to Grades 7, 8 and 9 students attending state and grant-aided private secondary schools.
4. Access to educational facilities to students with disabilities will be improved.
5. Government will continue to invest in facilities to promote dual and vocational training in order to provide learning and work-study opportunities to our youth in non-academic fields.
6. As our country enters the next phase of its development, Government will create an environment conducive to learning through modern digital technology and latest best practices.
7. An Educators' Council Bill will be introduced to promote the continuous professional development and status of our teachers and educators.
8. The National Curriculum Framework for the pre-primary sector is being reviewed in order to better meet the new trends in education.
9. Government will further upgrade primary school infrastructure to accommodate additional art classes, playgrounds and a green and endemic corner to inculcate in our children the culture of conservation and protection of the environment. Moreover, secondary schools and tertiary education infrastructure will be further upgraded.
10. In line with the education reform policy, an Institute of Technical Education will be set up to create opportunities and pathways for students to pursue studies in technical education.

11. To better prepare and empower our young people, a National Skills Development Strategy 2020-2024 will be developed.
12. This Strategy will map out the skills development needs for the next five years and address the new trends influencing skills development policies, such as industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, and ageing population. It will also outline incentives for our youth to engage in green tourism activities and modern agriculture.
13. The 'Afterschool' program, for young people aged 8 to 14 years, will be expanded to include new activities aimed at the practice of arts, stimulating creativity and the enhancement of learning about our national cultural heritage.