

## Minister's Statements and Speeches

### **Budget Speech 2021-2022 BETTER TOGETHER (11.06.2021)**

#### **C. RESTORING CONFIDENCE**

##### *Education*

Mr Speaker, Sir,

238. This is why we need to invest in quality education for our children.

239. Since 2015, Government has embarked on a transformation agenda across all levels.

240. The objective is to prepare our youth to become responsible citizens and a driving force of our society.

241. This year, I am providing Rs 17 billion in the budget for the education sector, an increase of some Rs 2 billion as compared to last year.

242. The branding process of our schools towards a more conducive teaching and learning environment for both teachers and students will include -

(a) The upgrading and embellishment of our school infrastructure. This year, we will start with 20 public pre-primary schools, 70 primary schools and 30 secondary schools.

(b) Investment in a Comprehensive Facility Maintenance Programme led by Mauri-Facilities Management Company Ltd.

(c) The recruitment of -

i. 257 Surveillants, 257 Library Officers and 34 Educational Psychologists for primary and secondary schools;

ii. 10 Coordinators and 10 Assistant Coordinators for pre-primary schools. and

iii. 235 additional support teachers for the extension of the Early Support Programme to all primary pupils.

243. Early Childhood Care and Education sets a critical foundation for a child's educational journey.

244. We are therefore increasing the monthly per-capita grant for children attending private pre-primary schools from Rs 200 to Rs 400.

245. This measure will benefit some more than 22,000 children annually.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

246. We will also be giving more support to Special Education Needs (SENs) students.

247. The Grant to NGOs running SEN schools will be increased from Rs 138 million to Rs 151 million to cater for -

(a) An increase from Rs 5,400 to Rs 6,000 for the Basic Grant component in the Grant-in-aid formula for each student;

An increase in the meal allowance for students attending SEN schools from Rs 60 to Rs 75 per day; and

(c) A grant to new registered NGOs to support SEN students with autism and those suffering from visual and hearing difficulties.

248. In addition, Resource and Development Units will be set-up in five SEN schools at Rose Belle, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Port Louis and Black River to facilitate access to paramedical services and therapy.

249. Activity books of grades 1 to 6 will be adapted for learners with visual, hearing, intellectual impairment, as well as for autism.

250. Braille notes will be acquired for secondary school students with severe visual impairments. *Secondary Education*

Mr Speaker, Sir,

251. This year, academies under the Nine-Year Continuous Basic Education Reform will be operational.

252. In this regard, some Rs 850 million is being provided for the construction of a new school at Rivière du Rempart and the extension of 15 schools over the next 3 years.

253. Multipurpose halls and playfields will be constructed in secondary schools at Goodlands, Floreal, Sodnac, Vacoas, Bell Village and Ebène, at a cost of some Rs 490 million.

254. These sport facilities will be made available to the general public after school hours and during week-ends.

255. Rs 170 million are being provided for the deployment of wireless local area network in 155 secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

***The TVET sector***

256. To modernise our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector -

(a) An Institute of Technical Education and Technology will be set-up to provide technical education at Grades 10 and 11;

(b) A New Technical Education Centre will be constructed at Ebène;  
and

(c) The Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd campus at Réduit will be expanded.

### ***Tertiary Education***

Mr Speaker, Sir,

257. To support online learning, the University of Mauritius, University of Technology and *L'Université des Mascareignes* will invest some Rs 33 million in an eLearning Management System.

258. I am also providing this year Rs 70 million for the construction of the Civil Service College at Réduit.