

IMF Article IV mission visited Mauritius from 22 Jan to 5 Feb 2014



Under the Article IV of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies.

This year's discussions took place from January 22 to February 5. The mission which comprised Mr. Petri, Mr Inui, Mr Thakoor, Mr Touna Mama and Mr Xiao met with the PM, the VPM and Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Central Bank and other government officials.

As in the past, Statistics Mauritius provided the IMF team with relevant statistics on National accounts, Government Finance, Prices, and Employment including projections to enlighten the discussions on economic developments and policies..

The mission concluded that Mauritius maintained a stable macroeconomic environment in 2013 despite difficult external developments. According to the mission, the challenges in 2014 would be (i) to reduce public debt through a smooth medium-term fiscal consolidation path; (ii) improve the monetary policy transmission mechanism by removing excess reserves; (iii) pursue public sector reforms while protecting the poor; and (iv) address productivity and competitiveness challenges needed to raise medium-term economic growth prospects.

SM participated in the 9th African Symposium on Statistical Development in Gaborone

Ms. R. Moraby, Temporary Senior Statistician attended the 9th African Symposium on Statistical Development hosted by the Government of Botswana. The theme of the meeting was "Promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance in Africa".

Civil registration remains a challenge for Africa. The UN Working Group on Monitoring Vital events has called the absence of civil registration "A scandal of Invisibility" because "Most people in Africa and Asia are born and die without leaving a trace in any legal record or official statistics. Absence of reliable data for births, deaths and causes of death are at the root of this scandal of invisibility, which renders most of the world's poor as unseen, unaccountable and hence uncounted."

To date, only four countries in Africa, including Mauritius have complete Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems.

Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center South (AFRITAC South) organized a workshop on National Accounts



The AFRITAC South office was set in Mauritius for capacity building and reinforcing training of government officials at the regional level. National Accounts Statistics is one among the several areas where it has put considerable effort. Up to now, AFRITAC South has organized three workshops on the subject.

The first two workshops discussed on the production approach for compiling Gross Domestic Product as well as the new recommendations of the 2008 UN System of National Accounts. A third workshop on compilation of GDP using the expenditure approach was held at Ebène from 17 to 21 February 2014 and was attended by Ms N. Joomun, Senior Statistical Officer and Mr L. Persand, Statistician.

The workshop was a good opportunity to share country experiences on the topics and their plans for improvement.

International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21st February to promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity across the world.

In Mauritius, Creole is the most widely used mother language. In fact, 2011 Census results indicate that Creole is spoken most often at home by some 85% of Mauritians. Next comes Bhojpuri which is spoken by 5% of the population.

On the premise that a child learns best in its mother tongue, especially at the early stage in education, Creole has been introduced in 2012 as an optional language in Standard I.