

### **2014 National Assembly Elections: SM assists in the allocation of additional seats**

December 12, 2014 has caused a lot of ink to flow in the wake of the General Elections 2014 post-results. The allocation of additional seats has sparked significant public and media interests following an amendment to the Constitution in June 2014, where it was not mandatory for a candidate standing the elections to declare his/her community.

SM was once again called upon to assist the Electoral Commissioner in the discharge of his duties for the allocation of additional seats. The latter, during a Press Conference, has wished to place on record his sincere appreciation to Ms. Cheung Kai Suet, Director of Statistics, and Ms. Cassimally, Deputy Director, and others who were involved in the technical meanders of the above exercise.

To recall, the allocation of additional seats, entrenched in our laws, is to ensure a fair and adequate representation of the minorities ethnic groups in the Parliament.

### **19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) Resolution of the International Labour Office (ILO) and its implication for SM**

In March 2014, the ILO Governing Body approved of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS report and its resolutions concerning statistics of work, employment and labour under-utilisation. In this context, the ILO conducted a capacity building workshop on "*Work Statistics (19<sup>th</sup> ICLS Resolution) and Labour Migration Statistics*" in South Africa in December 2014.

Benefiting from its participation in the workshop, SM is currently working on a new questionnaire of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey, the main data collection instrument for the labour statistics, to implement the latest standards in its local context.

The resolutions of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS are expected to have minor impact on the Mauritian labour estimates since they relate mostly to exclusive engagement in own-use production of goods, volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, which is not so important in the country.

### **SM participates in the Third National Communication of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Mauritius as a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is required, in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention, to report on measures undertaken at national level to implement relevant international obligations and decisions pertaining to climate change.

After the completion of the Initial National Communication in 1999 and the Second National Communication in 2010, Mauritius has now embarked on the Third National Communication. To this end, an inception workshop was held on 19 November 2014 at Balaclava with a view to providing the UNFCCC with relevant information on climate change actions for assessing the compliance with international obligations, guiding policy makers at national and international levels, and sharing information on climate change in a consistent, transparent and comparable manner.

SM is a member of the Project Steering Committee and is the Chair of the Technical Working Group responsible for the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases component.

### **SM's End of Year Lunch**

Far from the bustle of skyscrapers and honking vehicles, some hundred SM Officers got together at Le Saffron Grill, Mont Choisy Promenade, on December 29.

With an enchanting décor and background music, the staff were served with a tantalising variety of Indian cuisine to the taste of everyone. Present during this lunch were the Census and Survey Assistants whose work contract was to end in December; their invaluable support and contribution to the office were coined as commendable by the Director. In her address, the latter made a brief retrospective of the lapsing year's achievements and thanked her staff for their continued hard work and support.

To end the year 2014 on a festive note, a group of entertainers hit the floor on the beat of a good *Séga* under the delightful applause of each and everyone.

A day to remember!