

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

**B/83**

The Honourable First Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central  
**(Mr Uteem)**

*To ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development –*

**Whether, in regard to the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate of the Economic Development Board, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Board, information as to the (a) composition thereof, indicating the qualifications and salary package of each member thereof and (b) number of reports prepared and submitted to Government since 2017, indicating in each case the strategic and policy advice given?**

**REPLY**

Madam Speaker,

The Economic Development Board has been established under the Economic Development Board Act and came into operation in January 2018, following the merger of the Board of Investment, Enterprise Mauritius and the Financial Services Promotion Agency.

The EDB has, since May 2018, a new organisational structure with three Directorates and two Strategic Units, namely, -

- (a) A Strategic Planning & Economic Development Directorate;
- (b) An Investment & Trade Development Directorate;
- (c) A Doing Business & Licensing Directorate;
- (d) A Strategic Business Unit for Global Outreach; and
- (e) A Strategic Business Unit for the Africa Strategy.

As the House may be aware, the EDB is mandated to provide strong institutional support for strategic economic planning and ensure greater coherence and effectiveness in economic policy formulation, in accordance with section 4(a) of the Economic Development Board Act.

It is, therefore, through its Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate that the Board carries out economic research at the macro-economic level, ensures coordination across government agencies and maintains constant dialogue with stakeholders on economic matters with a view to:

- (a) formulating macro-economic policies so as to achieve the growth objectives of Government for becoming a High-Income economy;
- (b) identifying opportunities in new economic sectors and engaging with international partners to develop strategic alliances to create the appropriate ecosystem for these sectors; and
- (c) advising on the development of major projects which are of significance or strategic importance to the economy.

Madam Speaker,

I am tabling details concerning the composition, qualifications and salary package of members of the Strategic Planning Team. I am informed by the EDB that the post of Head of this Directorate is still vacant as the candidate selected to occupy the post in January 2019 has declined the offer. Efforts are ongoing at the level of the EDB to recruit the best possible candidate for that important post.

In the absence of the Head, the overall responsibilities of the Directorate falls under the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the EDB.

With regard to Part (b) of the Question, I am informed that the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Directorate has, since its inception, been working across the organization to advise and advocate policies to Government, including, *inter alia*:

- (a) the Mauritius Artificial Intelligence Strategy;
- (b) the Openness Strategy through a report submitted to the National Economic and Social Council; and
- (c) the review of several schemes including the Occupation Permit, the Speed to Market Scheme, the Mauritius Diaspora Scheme, the Urban Regeneration Scheme and the business environment reforms.

The Directorate has also, over the past six months, engaged extensively with stakeholders with a view to finalizing the UN-Government of Mauritius Strategic Partnership Framework. This Framework sets out Mauritius strategic priorities, supported by the UN system and is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including Samoa Pathway and the Africa Agenda 2063.

Furthermore, the Directorate is currently engaged with the World Bank with a view to developing a national sectoral planning framework under a Reimbursable Advisory Services Agreement. In this context, consultations are currently being held for the development of a national planning framework for the manufacturing and digital sectors as well as the elaboration of a blueprint for the agro industry, including the cane industry.

Madam Speaker,

I am also informed that the Directorate is very active on numerous fora such as the Steering committee for the implementation of the Tourism Strategy 2018-2021 and is advising Government on a regular basis on matters of strategic importance such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) regional value chain, the Africa Strategy, improvement of the ease of doing business as well as participating in negotiations on international relations such as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement with India and the Free Trade Agreement with China.

The EDB has also been entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate the activities of the Commission for Economic Affairs of the National Economic and Social Council. This Commission has been mandated by Government to provide a permanent forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue, collaboration, coordination and action to generate economic growth that is distributed across the Mauritian society while creating opportunities for all.