

**ONLINE SIDE EVENT: LAUNCH OF PLASTIC  
INNOVATION PROGRAMME BY THE GEF SMALL  
GRANTS PROGRAMME, UNDP**

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**PLASTIC MANAGEMENT AND SGP IN MAURITIUS:  
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF  
MAURITIUS**

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**Hon. Kavydass Ramano  
Minister of Environment, Solid Waste  
Management and Climate Change,  
Mauritius  
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# Facts and Figures on Solid Waste

## Local figures

- ✓ Some 537,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste generated annually
- ✓ More than 75,000 tonnes of plastic wastes generated annually (14 % of total wastes)
- ✓ Disposed at Mare Chicose Landfill
- ✓ Only 2000 – 3000 tons of plastic waste is recycled yearly (< 4%)
- ✓ 130 million PET bottles are commercialised annually.
- ✓ Around 40% of PET bottles are recycled annually



# Policy, Strategy & Institutional set up

- Government Programme 2020 – 2024 : announced to make Mauritius a plastic free country
- Promoting circularity :
  - ✓ Development of a Solid Waste Management Strategy & Action Plan;
  - ✓ Reviewing regulation on plastic bags;
  - ✓ Introducing a new regulation for banning of single use non-biodegradable plastic products; and
  - ✓ Reviewing regulation on Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottle.
- Plastic Management Division created since January 2021

# Legislations in force

- Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015 – reviewed in 2020
- Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations – New
- Environment Protection (Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottle Permit) Regulations 2001 – being reviewed

# Environment Protection (Banning of plastic bags) Regulations 2020

- Introduction of the Environment Protection (Banning of plastic bags) Regulations in 2015
- Repealed and replaced by new regulation in September 2020
- New provisions came into force as from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (*6-month moratorium*)



# Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020

- Promulgated in July 2020 and came into force as from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (for specific products)
- Provisions include:
  - ✓ Ban for import, manufacture, possession, sale, supply or use
  - ✓ Different fines have been imposed i.e. for individuals, for traders, for importers and for manufacturers.
- Moratorium up to January 2022 :
  - ✓ Modified Atmosphere Packaging(MAP) in tray – Fresh meat / poultry / sea food etc.
  - ✓ Cup and bowl – ice-cream , yogurt, beverages, desserts etc.

# Environment Protection (Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottle Permit) Regulations

- Promulgated in 2001 - to manage used PET bottles based on the Polluter Pays Principle
- Financial incentive scheme – Rs 15 per kg recycled
- Fiscal measure – excise duty of Rs. 2 + VAT per PET bottle
- Collection rate stagnating around 40%
- Introduction of new policies with overall objective - achieve a collection/recycling rate of at least 80%

# KEY CHALLENGES

- Resistance to change
  - ✓ Huge investment for equipment
  - ✓ Covid 19 pandemic – Manufacturers cannot travel to look for alternatives/machinery
- More expensive alternatives
- Enforcement - Fake biodegradable products on market, abusive use of exempted products
- Economies of scale
- Inadequate technical and research capacity
- Poor understanding of life cycle of plastic



# Complementary measures

## ➤ Sensitisation

➤ public awareness raising materials, including:

- ✓ Radio/TV programmes and clips,
- ✓ LED scroll messages in buses,
- ✓ Billboard displayed at strategic places,

## ➤ Ongoing clean up campaigns

## ➤ Promotion of alternatives

- ✓ jute bags, cloth bags, plant-based bags/containers, long lasting water bottles
- ✓ wooden cutleries/stirrers/straws and paper, palm and banana leaves plates, bowls and take aways.

# Complementary measures (ctd.)

## ➤ Encouraging circularity

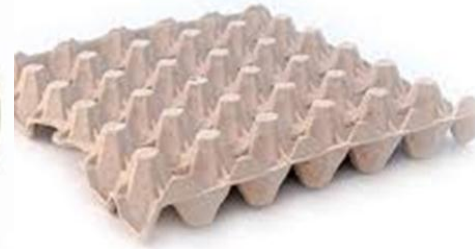
- ✓ Installation of eco-bins on beaches and in Local Authorities and Social Welfare Centres
- ✓ Construction and operation of Civic Amenity Centres ('Dechetteries')
- ✓ Setting up of sorting units



# SENSITISATION /CLEAN UP ON PLASTIC



# Alternatives



# Partnership with UNDP/GEF- SGP

- UNDP-SGP is supporting NGOs involved in sustainable development projects in Mauritius
- Financial support – Rs. 25 million
- Support to 7 projects for plastic management and single use plastic alternatives:
- These projects encourage the use of Pandanus Leaves for weaving of bags and palm leaves for tableware, installation of collection points/waste disposal bins, management of pesticide containers amongst others



# Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) & plastics

- Microplastics may act as vectors for the transfer of chemical contaminants such as POPs (e.g PCBs, DDT) through the food chain.
- Mauritius fully supports the work of the POPs Review Committee, which is carrying out further investigation:
  - ✓ to determine possible future listing of UV-328 (plastic additive) as POPs

# Way forward

- Measures for management of post-consumer PET bottles
- Roadmap – support of GEF and other international partners solicited
- Research and development – Rs 2 M seed money to research institutions
- Bilateral/Regional/International Cooperation
  - ✓ Technology Transfer
  - ✓ Learning from Best Practices – e.g. from Nordic countries



# Say No to Plastic

