



Newsletter

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life - March 2009

L'honorable docteur Rajesh Jeetah, Ministre de la Santé et de la Qualité de la Vie : "Cette année sera celle des grands projets"

Rajesh Jeetah assume ses responsabilités de Ministre de la Santé depuis septembre 2008. Il se dit confiant de pouvoir relever les grands défis dans le secteur de la santé. Il mise sur la collaboration de tout son personnel et le soutien de la population afin de pouvoir appliquer la vision du Premier Ministre, celle d'offrir un service de qualité à tous les niveaux dans le secteur hospitalier.

La parole au Ministre

COMMENT AVEZ VOUS ACCUEILLI VOTRE NOMINATION A CE MINISTÈRE? ETES VOUS UN HOMME HEUREUX ?

Comme vous le savez, ce sont les prérogatives du Premier Ministre de nommer ses ministres et de leur confier tel ou tel ministère. J'ai accueilli cette nomination comme une marque de confiance du Premier Ministre à mon égard. Et depuis, je me suis attelé, avec mon équipe, à travailler sur plusieurs grands projets qui seront concrétisés cette année.

Quant à la deuxième partie de votre question, je dois vous dire que j'ai eu de la chance. Bien des choses m'ont rendu heureux dans la vie. Par exemple, la place qu'occupe la famille et les liens qui s'y tissent sont des sources de bonheur et sont essentiels pour continuer à avancer dans la vie. Les plantes me procurent beaucoup de joie et je ne me lasse pas de m'en occuper. Mon passage et les études dans de grandes universités, où j'ai côtoyé des grands du monde universitaire, m'ont procuré aussi beaucoup de joie et de bonheur.

Ma fonction en est également une source. Ici, par le plus grand des hasards, j'ai l'opportunité de relever des défis qui se situent à un autre niveau, comme par exemple, le service des plus petits aux plus grands. J'ai aussi la chance de discuter avec des experts et professionnels locaux ainsi qu'avec des spécialistes qui occupent de hautes fonctions sur le plan international.

ET LES GRANDS CHANTIERS POUR CETTE ANNÉE ?

L'accent sera mis sur la formation. Dans ce contexte, la formation se fera aussi bien à Maurice qu'à l'étranger, et ce, à tous les

niveaux, afin de parfaire les connaissances des employés du Ministère.

Le but final est d'améliorer la qualité du service. Nous travaillons sur les dossiers relatifs à la mise sur pied des "Medical Schools" afin d'offrir une formation continue et soutenue au personnel médical et para-médical. A titre d'exemple, nous voulons améliorer la qualité de "l'hôtellerie" dans nos hôpitaux. Ainsi, va démarrer un programme d'échange entre les divers hôtels de l'île et de notre service de "catering" et ce, dans le souci encore une fois, de donner un repas équilibré et conforme aux normes hygiéniques et nutritionnelles.

Quant aux grands projets pour 2009, nous démarrons incessamment la reconstruction de l'hôpital Jeetoo. D'autre part, tout sera mis en oeuvre pour améliorer nos centres de santé. De nouveaux "Area Health Centres" seront construits. Dans le même souffle, nous prévoyons la mise sur pied d'un centre spécialisé pour la diabétologie à l'hôpital de Souillac, des travaux d'extension à l'hôpital de Moka ainsi que l'institution d'une unité de cardiologie à l'hôpital Nehru à Rose Belle.

Nous envisageons également la construction d'une salle d'opération moderne à l'hôpital Victoria. Quant à l'hôpital du Nord, un nouveau centre d'urgence sera construit. Le chantier est vaste et les gens verront les transformations au fur et à mesure que les projets se concrétiseront.

QUEL EST VOTRE MESSAGE A LA NATION ?

Je demande aux mauriciens de réfléchir sérieusement aux chiffres qui sont très préoccupants. A ce jour, 20% de la population âgée de 30 ans ou plus est diabétique, 30% des mauriciens souffrent d'hypertension, 38% de nos compatriotes sont obèses ou en surpoids et 90% des femmes et 75% des hommes ne pratiquent pas d'exercices physiques. Il est à noter que 800 patients se font dialysés et environ 450 à 500 subissent des opérations cardiaques annuellement. D'autre part, 2500 angiographies et 400 amputations sont effectuées chaque année et 175 opérations ophtalmologiques ont lieu chaque semaine. En trente ans (de 1976 à 2006), il y a eu une progression de 700% du nombre de décès dûs au diabète. Le taux de décès liés au diabète était de 3.2% en 1976, il est passé à 22.6% en 2006.

Je voudrais que les mauriciens réfléchissent sur ces chiffres qui devraient nous interpeller tous.

Hospital News

Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital

The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has already embarked on a project for the upgrading of the Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital. The project comprises the following:-

- (i) construction of a new hospital;
- (ii) demolition of obsolete buildings; and
- (iii) renovation of certain buildings which deemed to be of significant architectural merit to their original state

The construction of the new hospital is expected to end by May 2010.

It is good to know that the Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital was built and designed as a school in 1892. However in 1899, it was converted to serve as a Hospital.



New Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital

Other Hospital Projects

Victoria Hospital, Candos

- A Neurosurgery and Spinal block
- New building for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Covered passage to new Outpatient Department and Wards
- Extension of Dialysis Unit
- Extension of the Cardiac Unit
- New building for the National Blood Transfusion Service & National Reference Laboratory.

J. Nehru Hospital, Rose Belle

- Set up of a Cardiac Unit
- A new building to house incinerator



Flacq Hospital

Flacq Hospital

- Extension of the administrative block
- Provision of Xray and CTscan for the new wing

Sir S. Ramgoolam (SSRN) Hospital

- Extension of Accident & Emergency Department.
- Extension of the Cardiac Centre

S. Bharati Eye Hospital, Moka

- Extension work at the Outpatient Department

Forthcoming Health Services in the region:

- Community Health Centre at Le Morne
- Community Health Centre at Club Road, Vacoas
- Community Health Centre at Malherbs, Curepipe
- Community Health Centre in Goodlands
- Medi-Clinic at Plaine Verte
- Medi-Clinic at Triolet

Rode 7 differences dans sa deux photos la



Pas Perdi ou Ietemps are Rode Differences
L'hopital ek Dispensaire Memme Traitement

Major Cabinet Decisions on Health Issues

- NCD Screening Programme targets some 100,000 adults and about 25,000 students for year 2009. (16 January 2009)
- New mobile Dispensing Unit opened on the premises of the Plaine Lauzun Community Health Centre in the context of the Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme (16 January 2009)
- 'Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2007' released. (9 January 2009)
- Promulgation of the Public Health on sale and consumption of alcohol in public places (19 December 2008)
- Promulgation of the Public Health (Restrictions on Tobacco Products) Regulations with effect from 1 March 2009 (28 November 2008)
- Mega Blood Donation held on 18 December 2008 on the Esplanade of E. Anquetil Building Port Louis. (21 November 2008)
- A series of measures taken for the control of vector-borne diseases such as Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue Fever and Avian Flu. (14 November 2008)
- Celebration of World Diabetes Day 2008 around the theme "Diabetes in Children and Adolescents" (7 November 2008)
- Setting up of a Pharmacovigilance Unit at Flacq Hospital on a pilot basis to detect sub-standard medicines and errors in medications. (24 October 2008)
- Provision of medical facilities to Hadj pilgrims proceeding to Saudi Arabia. (10 October 2008)
- Additional measure taken to ensure that foodstuffs suspected of containing melamine and rhodamine are not put on sale on the local market. (3 October 2008)
- Protocol established to strengthen the mechanism of reporting and handling cases of food poisoning at hospitals and health centres (3 October 2008)

HIV/AIDS

Breaking Stigma & Discrimination

- Decentralisation of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) service for HIV/AIDS.
- VCT now operational in all Area Health Centres.
- Facility also available in Mobile Clinics.



Needle Exchange Programme: Far beyond the target

- 2000 persons targeted
- 3000 clients as at 31 December 2008

Methadone Substitution Therapy

A New Mobile Dispensing Unit is operational since January 2009 at Plaine Lauzun Community Health Centre. 1169 clients are under the Methadone Substitution Therapy.



Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

NCD Mobile Clinic

The Hon. Dr R. Jeetah launched a new package of NCD Mobile Clinic as from October 2008, which comprises screening for NCDs, reproductive health including HIV and AIDS, cooking demonstration and oral health (dental check up).



NCD Mobile Clinic in 2008

- 281 sites/localities visited
- 28,740 adults screened
- 3801 married women screened for breast cancer and 2886 for cervical cancer.

Screening at Secondary Schools

24,012 students were screened at the 173 schools visited during the year 2008 in order to detect NCDs and related risk factors among school youth.



Health Promotion



Health Promotion activities are carried out by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to encourage the Mauritian population to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Free aerobic, yoga and physical activity sessions are held in 5 Health Clubs in 59 localities.

Sensitisation Campaign



6,606 persons attended the 168 sensitisation sessions on NCD and health promotion in 2008.

Health Programmes

Watch out on MBC/TV:

- 'Allo Dokter': every Sunday from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on MBC 3
- 'Diabète Full-Stop': 2nd Tuesday of each month at around 20.15 p.m. on MBC 1

Radio Programme

3-Minute radio programme on Health in Creole and Bhojpuri every day on:

- MBC/World Hit Radio at around 7.25 a.m.
- MBC/Radio Mauritius at 9.00 a.m.

Beware



Moustik peuplé dan ti dilo ki ramassé partout partout ek capave transmet boucoup maladies couma Chikungunya, dengue ek fievre jaune.

Pou empeche moustik peuplé:

Drain dilo ki ramassé lor :



dale lacaze



dan pot fleur



dan vieux laroue



pas laisse dilo ramassé dan la cour



met saletés dans poubelle fermé

Garde ou l'environnement propre

International Days Celebrated

World Heart Day

A Series of activities was launched by the Minister of Health at S. Bissondoyal SSS, Rose Belle on 08 October 2008

World Diabetes Day

A Rally (Fun Run, Marathon and March) was organised on 22 November 2008 from Solferino SSS to Quatre Bornes Municipal Hall .



The World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 9 October 2008 at the New Psychiatric Hospital, Beau Bassin around the theme 'Making Mental Health a Global Priority: Scaling up Services Through Advocacy and Action'.

Mega Blood Donation

A Mega Blood Donation was organized on the 18th December 2008 on the Esplanade of the Emmanuel Anquetil building, Port Louis. 1850 pints of blood were collected on this occasion. This event was organized by the Blood Donors' Association in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life .



Dr (Mrs) Naga, Consultant Mental Health addressing the audience.

World AIDS Day

A workshop was organised at 'Domaine Les Pailles' on 1st December 2008 to work out a Charter for Mauritius to guide HIV/AIDS prevention activities for year 2009.

Legislation

The Public Health (Restrictions on Tobacco Products) Regulations 2008



A new regulation on tobacco was promulgated in November 2008 and came into force partly in March 2009 and will be fully operational in June 2009.

The aims of the new regulations on tobacco are to:

- regulate places where smoking is not allowed.
- give directions for packaging and labelling.
- ban smoking in public places
- ban the sale of tobacco products to and by minors.

The Public Health (Prohibition on Advertisement, Sponsorship and Restriction on Sale and Consumption in Public Places, of Alcoholic Drinks) Regulations 2008



A new regulation to restrict sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks was promulgated in December 2008 and came into force in March 2009.

The aims of the new regulation are to:

- ban the consumption of alcoholic drinks in public places
- ban the sale of alcoholic drink to minors
- regulate the display of health warnings on alcoholic drinks
- regulate the display of alcoholic drinks at the point of sale

Major Events

- A New Outpatient Department (OPD) at Victoria Hospital, Candos was inaugurated by the Vice Prime Minister Hon. Dr. R. Beebeejaun on 6 November 2008. The following services/departments have been transferred to the ground floor of the new OPD: Accident and Emergency Department, unsorted OPD, Medical OPD, ECG Unit, X-Ray Department and the Pharmacy.
- The Ministry of Health & Quality of Life celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Central Health Laboratory on 15th December 2008 at the Quatre Bornes Municipal Hall through the organization of a one-day exhibition.



- Mauritius hosted the **16th Task Force on Immunization(TFI) from 3 to 5 December 2008** at La Plantation Resorts & Spa, BalACLava. 200 local and foreign participants from such countries as Angola, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Kenya and Nigeria attended the Meeting. The purpose was to advise the region on issues related to immunization and to share the Mauritian success story on health and child immunization.
- The 7th Colloque on HIV and AIDS for the Indian Ocean islands was held in Mauritius from 10 to 12 November 2008 at La Plantation Hotel, BalACLava. The theme was "Réduisons Les Risques". The main objectives of the colloque were to update the knowledge and management, share best practices and experiences and reinforce cooperation among Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission with regards to HIV and AIDS. There were 450 participants including all categories: Medical and Paramedical groups, Civil Society, Religious bodies, Representatives of international organizations (UN system & IOC) and people living with the virus. Experts, among whom were eminent Professors were invited to share their experiences and new advances and approaches in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

New Health Services

- A **Smoking Cessation Clinic, comprising a psychotherapy and counselling service** is operational on a pilot project since December 2008 at the Odette Leal Community Health Centre, Beau Bassin.
- A **Food Alert Unit** was set up in December 2008 with a view to retrieve all information with respect to food alerts at international level.
- A **Poison Information Centre was inaugurated by the Hon. Dr R. Jeetah** on 15 December 2008 on the first floor of the New Outpatient Department at Victoria Hospital, Candos.
- A new **Community Health Centre** is operational since December 2008 at Bamboux Virieux.
- An **Endodontics Clinic was launched at the New Souillac Hospital in December 2008**. This service aim is to reduce tooth loss due to advanced tooth decay and accident.



- A **Podiatry Unit** located at the Victoria Hospital, Candos, is operational since September 2008. It offers specialized foot care.
- A **Diabetic Retinal Screening Service** is available at J. Nehru Hospital, Rose Belle and SSRN Hospital, Pamplemousses.
- An **Ayurvedic Clinic** is operational at the Victoria Hospital, Candos since November 2008.



Consultation at the Ayurvedic Clinic



Health Personnel dispensing Ayurvedic Medicines

Central Flying Squad Unit

A Central Flying Squad Unit has been set up since October 2008 following the recent food scare of Melamine. This Unit also looks into aspects of Environmental Sanitation and Food Hygiene, prevention of diseases and health promotion issues.

The Central Flying Squad Unit made 64 inspections and established 17 contraventions from October 2008 to January 2009.



Seizures/Detentions by the Central Flying Squad Unit:

- 368 tons of fish in the Port
- 30.5 kg frozen food
- 42 kg dried noodles
- 164 dented cans

Coming Events

- Official opening of Bamboux Virieux Community Health Centre
- Official launching of an Ayurvedic Clinic at Flacq Hospital
- New Operating Theatre at Victoria Hospital
- Setting up of a model Diabetic Resource Centre at Souillac Hospital by Professor D. Owen

Training

Courses held by the Central School of Nursing during 2008:

- Intermediate Nursing
- Post Basic Midwifery
- Student Radiographer
- Final Basic Midwifery
- Final assessment for Health Care Assistant and Final Nursing

383 Health Personnel were successful in their respective exams.

Training courses held for Health Personnel in 2008:

- Training course for Community Physicians and Medical & Health Officers/Senior Medical & Health Officers in Mental Health
- Training course for Health Information Education and Communication Officers in Mental Health
- Training in Customer Care and Quality Management through Open Distance Learning Mode
- Regional Training in Medical Emergencies under the 'URSIDA' Project for nursing personnel from member states of the Indian Ocean Commission
- Training course for Pharmacy Dispensers
- "Diplôme Universitaire VIH/SIDA" for para-medical staff.
- Postgraduate studies in Internal Medicine and Anaesthesia

FEEDBACK

Please forward your comments and suggestions to the following address:

Monthly Newsletter
Ministry of Health & Quality of Life
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Port Louis

Foreign Visits

- Professor Tabatabay, Ophthalmologist and Mr. Moosajee from Switzerland, were in Mauritius from 3 to 16 January 2009. During his visit, Professor Tabatabay with the assistance of a local team performed 66 operations. He has effected 8 visits since 2005, and has operated 238 complex vitreoretinal cases.
- Other teams of ophthalmologists from Geneva comprising Dr Leviezel, Dr Baumbacher, Dr Roth and Dr Baglivo visited Mauritius since 2006. They operated around 112 patients and performed 215 laser interventions.
- Professor André Roth and Dr Moira Baumbacher, Ophthalmic Surgeons operated on 19 complex squint cases at the Moka Eye Hospital from 17 to 30 January 2009.

17 foreign medical teams visited Mauritius and 371 complex surgeries in different specialities were performed in 2008

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