

Opening of New Social Security Office at Montagne Longue – 29 April 2014

The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has inaugurated new Social Security Offices at St Pierre and Montagne Longue on 16 and 29 April 2014 respectively. Conscious of the need to upgrade the infrastructure of some of the offices which are in a bad state and a view to developing a modern, high quality and sustainable public service, the Ministry has constructed 4 new regional offices.

In this endeavour, the Ministry is being assisted by the National Pensions Fund which has recently provided funding for the construction of 3 new social security offices based on the concept of “Maurice Ile Durable”. The other new buildings funded by the NPF is located at Curepipe and will soon be officially opened.

The salient features of the buildings are:-

- Use of a mixture of traditional fossil energy sources and renewable energy sources in line with the vision of MID for sustainable development and the concept of net zero energy.
- Environmental friendly materials for the construction of the buildings.
- The systems in place will lead to the reduction of cooling and lighting loads through climate-responsive design and conservation practices
- In addition the selection of energy efficient electrical devices (Energy Star rated) have been used inside the Buildings.
- Emphasis on the use of an interior designs and materials used to increase the comfort of its occupants.
- A Photovoltaic system is included on each building which will cater for about 70% of the whole energy demand - this will significantly reduce the cost of utility electricity. During periods of low electricity demand, excess energy production from PV can be exported to the CEB grid at a marginal cost which is payable to the NPF.

- The buildings have been designed with skydome and glass panel façades at their top to favour Natural Lighting and Natural Ventilation.
- Neoflex rubber flooring has been adopted to increase comfort for users and to prevent accidental slipping.
- Fully LED type lighting has been adopted for indoor and outdoor. This will reduce power consumption. Acoustic false ceiling has been installed to eliminate echoes and noise, thus providing comfort to users.
- Coloured aluminium and sun reflective glass have been used to reduce the heating of the buildings.

The government for its part has funded the construction of one building in Riviere des Anguilles which will also be launched soon.