



## Mauritius

Vasant Kumar Bunwaree  
**Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources**



*Vasant Kumar Bunwaree has been the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources since 13 September 2008. He completed his secondary education at Royal College, Port Louis, Mauritius and majored in Medical Doctor at University of Bordeaux II, France. From 1977 through 1987, Mr. Vasant Kumar Bunwaree is also pursuing a successful professional career in the fields of medical activities. Since 1987, as a member of the National Assembly, Mr. Bunwaree was appointed Minister of Finance (November 1996 – September 2000), Vice President of the Mauritius Labour Party (March 2005 – to date) and Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment (from 8 July 2005 through 13 September 2008).*

### **Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future**

A middle Income country like Mauritius relies heavily on its human resources. This inevitably means that there is a fundamental need to ascertain that educational opportunities exist for all so that inefficiencies within the system are reduced to the minimum.

The modern drive toward inclusive education no doubt, about satisfying the 'special education needs' of learners: our educational policies lay special emphasis on recuperating those who may be left out of the educational process or are marginalized because they come from poor families or again suffer from specific learning difficulties through disabilities or other handicapping conditions.

But it is also much more than mainstreaming. Inclusion characterizes thinking about difference: young learners must grow to respect and value differences while the dispensers of education must adopt the idea that the school's duty is to design both effective learning environments for learners with diverse learning styles and innovative ways of using new technology.

Our vision for education is hence centred on an internationally tested and endorsed approach of providing access to quality education which is simultaneously relevant, equitable and inclusive.

We have prioritized the sustainability of universal free education till the age of 16 and encouraged stakeholder partnership. We have emphasised curricular changes that are at the heart of the modernisation process of education while laying stronger emphasis on school leadership and management as well as on the professionalization of teachers. The horizon of the post secondary subsector has also widened with vertical and horizontal integration being worked on through inter-institutional linkages.

Ultimately, the effective consolidation of Mauritius as a democratic state rests on the promotion of the development of the self and fostering a culture of achievement within learners.