

The Rodrigues Youth Forum 2023 has been organised by Transparency Mauritius with the support of the European Union and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly during the months of August and September. Magazines of the forum have been distributed to the various players in our society, as well as through the network of Transparency International. The participants have come forth with a number of resolutions to improve governance.

CORRUPTION

Understanding that corruption is a national scourge that concerns every citizen, we, participants of the forum ask:

- 1) To create a platform independent from the government towards the sharing of public opinions in Rodrigues;
- 2) To establish a policy where public servants are required to declare their outside activities, assets and substantial gifts or benefits that could generate public interest conflicts;
- 3) Requiring that all newly recruited personnel in the private and public sector should follow a training about the impacts of corruption and its repercussions on society;
- 4) Making it mandatory for political parties to file detailed annual accounts publicly to justify the sources of political donations and guarantee that there are no hidden funding streams which enable corruptive practices; and
- 5) Urging for the placement of a ceiling on the sums that can be donated by corporations so that citizens can distinguish between benign participation in politics and dangerous contributions aimed at pursuing vested interests and corrupting the system.

DRUGS

Understanding that drugs abuse is a scourge that threatens our youth and nation, we, participants of the forumask:

- 1) To create economic opportunities, vocational training, and employment options for individuals in high-risk areas to reduce their susceptibility to engage in drug-related activities.
- 2) To provide special support platforms for people who are facing mental health disorders to express themselves in total anonymity and decrease their level of depression which might lead to addictions.
- 3) Setting up a specialized institution for youngsters providing counselling services to prevent drug abuse and provide counselling services in helping young individuals to cope with stress, anxiety and other factors that might contribute to drug abuse.
- 4) Strengthening border security by investing in modern technologies like scanners, surveillance equipment and improve port and airport security by implementing security protocols to prevent smuggling of drugs through these points.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Stressing the importance of participation, responsiveness and fairness and equity in good governance, we, youth of the forum ask:

- 1) Encouraging young individuals to start social enterprises. Social Entrepreneurship is a key factor to boost the economy of Rodrigues Island;
- 2) Ensuring and encouraging fairness and equity in all institutions that include youths' participation, by making them ambassadors of good governance and promoters of fairness and equity in the modern society;
- 3) To find modern ways to keep the population informed about all decisions being taken by policy makers. Furthermore, public platforms must be encouraged, where stakeholders can give their views before designing policies;
- 4) Promoting ethical and professional standards to ensure transparency and accountability in the public office and merit-based systems that encourage skill development, reward innovative ideas, and productive staff, must be implemented;
- 5) Encouraging citizen participation and engagement in decision making processes to ensure responsiveness to their needs and priorities; and
- 6) Encouraging self-determination in citizens, prioritize their ideas and projects as well as their impacts on society.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Stressing the importance of taking care of the environment and the understanding of climate change, we, youth of the forum ask:

- 1) To remove the invasive plant species and to promote the planting of trees to increase forests everywhere on the island;
- 2) To provide farmers with financial aids to build suitable water tanks to help reduce the problems of water shortage during critical periods and providing grants on suitable schemes to them may help largely in this process;
- 3) Encourage eco-tourism as our country's tourism sector is sustainably developing; and Ensure a proper water treatment of rainwater before consumption by providing machines and technology to transform water and create potable