

## Statement by Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance

(Sitting 13 September 2019)

**Madam Speaker,**

With your permission, I propose to make a statement on the outcome of a second application made by Mauritius to the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) for the technical compliance re-rating of 21 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations.

2. I wish to remind the House that when the Mauritius Mutual Evaluation Report was published in September 2018, we were rated Largely Compliant or Compliant with only **14 out of 40 FATF Recommendations**, including 3 of the Big 6 Recommendations.

3. The Big 6 Recommendations to which all countries have to be at least Largely-Compliant are namely:

Recommendation 3: Money Laundering Offence

Recommendation 5: Terrorist Financing Offence

Recommendation 6: Targeted Financial Sanctions related to Terrorism and  
Terrorist Financing

Recommendation 10: Customer Due Diligence

Recommendation 11: Record Keeping

Recommendation 20: Reporting of Suspicious Transactions

4. We made a first application for technical compliance re-rating, which was considered by the ESAAMLG Task Force of Senior Officials at its Meeting held in April 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania. We were upgraded in 10 Recommendations, including Recommendation 10 relating to Customer Due Diligence. I reported on the outcome of the application in a Statement I made to this House at the sitting of 16 April 2019.

**Madam Speaker,**

5. Following several measures initiated from April 2019 to August 2019, including the enactment of the United Nations (Financial Prohibitions, Arms, Embargo and Travel Ban) Sanctions Act 2019 and the Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2019 and the completion of the National Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment of Mauritius exercise as well as the dissemination of the results thereof, we submitted a second application for the re-rating of 21 FATF Recommendations. The application together with the Second Follow-Up Report on the recommended actions contained in the Mauritius Mutual Evaluation Report, were considered by the ESAAMLG Reviewers, the Evaluation and Compliance Group (ECG) and the Task Force of Senior Officials at their respective meetings held from 01 to 05 September in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

6. It was noted that Mauritius has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in the Mauritius Mutual Evaluation Report. Accordingly, at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ESAAMLG Council of Ministers held on 06 September in the Kingdom of Eswatini, the recommendation of the Task Force for the upgrading of 19 technical compliance ratings from the 21 applied for, were unanimously approved. Of these, **18 were rated Largely**

**Compliant or Compliant** and one from Non-Compliant to Partially Compliant. As such, as at date, Mauritius, is either Largely Compliant or Compliant to 35 of the 40 FATF Recommendations, including the Big 6 Recommendations.

**Madam Speaker,**

7. I wish to highlight that the FATF, the UK, the USA and the ESAAMLG Secretariat have unanimously recognized and congratulated Mauritius for its commitment at highest level to resolve its shortcomings and the significant progress made in a short period of time.

**Madam Speaker,**

8. I wish to inform the House that the application for the technical compliance re-rating and the recommendation of the ESAAMLG Council of Ministers for the upgrading of the 19 FATF Recommendations will now be submitted to the FATF Global Network for Quality and Consistency Review. In the event that there will be no comments thereon, the report will be published on the FATF and the ESAAMLG websites within the coming weeks.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.