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HRDC Career Talks: Making career information more accessible to secondary school students

As part of its outreach campaign, the HRDC is organising a series of career talks for secondary schools across the island. **The first career talk is planned at Rajcoomar Gujadhur State Secondary School located at Ramchandraroad, Central Flacq from 10 00 hrs – 11 00 hrs on Tuesday 21 May 2019.**

The aim of the talk sessions are to disseminate career information to students, mainly at Form V and Form VI levels; and raise awareness about short and medium-term skills needs in Mauritius, employment trends and possible career paths and opportunities. These talks are also meant to trigger and inculcate the thinking process of students about career planning and career management.

“The HRDC regularly organises career talks for students every year. We understand that career planning is a daunting process. So we want to provide students with information to guide them to make informed career decisions. It is also important to ensure that students are aware of the skills that today's employment market requires,” explains Mr Raj Auckloo, Director of the HRDC.

The career information sessions are based on the findings of the HRDC's Skills Studies in key sectors of the Mauritian economy. The HRDC is also inviting industry experts to share their knowledge and professional experience in different fields during the career talks. Many students say they do not know which career path is right for them. Most of the times, they get their information from family or peers. However, to be able to understand one's career goals and options, career information should be readily accessible to students at all stages in the schooling process. Hence, the objectives of these talks are to:

- introduce students to the resources and skills necessary for a successful job;
- help students in managing and adapting to the transition from school to work; and
- empower students to make informed and responsible choices on their learning, occupations, career goals and other aspects of life.

The career talk session comprises three aspects, namely:

- Thinking career and learning to manage careers;
- Dissemination of the HRDC's Skills Study findings; and
- Intervention by industry representatives in different fields, including Finance, ICT, Manufacturing, Engineering and Tourism.

"Career" was traditionally associated with paid employment and referred to a single occupation. However, in today's world the term career is seen as a continuous process of learning and development. It is important to plan one's career as from the early school days and avoid common career failures in the future. Thus, to cater for students who will be transiting from secondary to tertiary level or from secondary level to the job market, it is essential to ensure that they are exposed to the right information.

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