

## **PRESS CONFERENCE ON SOLAR WATER HEATER SCHEME (PHASE II)**

**By**

**Hon. DevanandVirahsawmy**

**Minister of Environment & Sustainable Development**

**On Tuesday 27 December 2011**

### **BRIEF**

The second phase of the *Solar Water Heater Project* has started during the second half of the month of January. The main aim of this *scheme*, is to help to reduce the electricity consumption, CO2 emission and at the same time, to enable each and every Mauritian to enjoy the comfort of having access to warm water.

The first phase of the *Solar Water Heater Project*, which has cost Rs250 million, has enabled 24 000 families to benefit from the *scheme*. However, some complaints have been registered, following which, the Ministry has engaged in improving the *scheme*.

It has been decided that the *scheme* which will be operated by the Development Bank of Mauritius, will allocate a Rs10 000 grant to around 24 000 beneficiaries. It should be noted that priority will be given to the 20 000 persons on the phase one waiting list. These persons should however, fill-in new applications and satisfy the criteria of the new *scheme*. Besides these 20 000 applications, new applications will be treated on a *first come first serve basis*.

**Advice to new Applicants:**

1. The scheme will consider only Solar Water Heaters with 150L capacity or more.
2. The Solar Water Heaters should be bought only from *recognized* and *registered* suppliers (list available at the DBM)
3. The supplier should have a showroom, a workshop, spare parts and should offer after sales services to customers.
4. The supplier should ensure the installation of the Solar Water Heater within 4 months of the order.
5. The installation should be effected by *qualified technicians* (MITD recognized)
6. The suppliers should ensure that the main structure and the supporting frame should be anti-corrosive.
7. A seven year guarantee against technical problem should be given by the supplier.
8. Buyers should wait for the second communiqué from the Ministry before applying for the grant.

**Conditions to Scheme Applicants:**

1. The buyer will not be allowed to sell the Solar Water Heater before three years.
2. Beneficiaries of the first scheme will not be able to apply for the new scheme.

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3. The buyers should apply personally for the grant. Requests received from the suppliers will not be considered.