

Box 7 New Headquarters Building Project

The implementation of the New Headquarters Building Project started in the year 2002 with the construction of its first stage – the Foundation and Basement Works. The need for a New Headquarters Building for the Bank of Mauritius was felt in the mid-1980's although the concept of the project itself dates back to the early 1990's. Two senior Building Advisors from the Bank of England were appointed in that respect to study the Bank's space requirements. Their main recommendation to the Bank was for the construction of a new high-rise building of an area of about 15,000 square metres. Following an Architect's competition in 1998, consultants for the design of the building were appointed. By 2001, the design of a New Headquarters Building to meet the present and future requirements of the Bank was completed.

The Main Building Works for the construction of the superstructure, comprising a podium and a tower, which started in November 2003, are ongoing and are expected to be completed by mid-2006. The podium of the building consists of four floors and a Mezzanine with the Banking Hall on the second floor. The tower consists of fourteen storeys, two of which will be reserved exclusively for mechanical equipment. The total floor area will be of 16,834 square metres and the whole building, designed for a lifespan of 100 years, will be able to house around 450 employees.

The Building has been designed with the concept of a security philosophy befitting a central bank. Hence, the main entrance will be protected such that visitors entering the building will be screened for offensive weapons. Access to the building from the public foyer will be strictly controlled.

The New Headquarters Building will be provided, *inter alia*, with ten lifts, a canteen with

full kitchen facilities and secure parking facilities for forty vehicles. Offices in the Building are being designed along modern tendencies in office planning to ensure maximum comfort and use of space in an efficient manner. Every floor will be equipped with high density filing systems. Several floors will be provided with meeting rooms. Lighting and air-conditioning will be recessed in the false ceiling while raised flooring will allow for the provision of electrical and communication network points on site.

The external cladding of the building consists of high quality granite and extensive double-glazed, lightly tinted, cyclone-proof and laminated glass. Upon the completion of the construction of the New Headquarters Building, the granite cladding will be extended to the existing building of the Bank. Harmonization of the external aspect of the existing and the new buildings of the Bank will give the visual effect of a single entity.