

PRESS COMMUNIQUE 02 AUGUST 2017

The association is surprised with the comments made by the Honourable Minister of Health and Quality of life yesterday in the news, when he mentioned that he was granting us **TWO increments to be added to our basic salary**, which was **never negotiated** at any given point of time in neither official meetings, at the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation where everything is recorded on audio nor any communique.

The doctors **are not “gourmand cash”** and **are not ready to sell** their social life, family life, and most importantly their own sleep, jeopardizing their own health **against any extra remuneration/money**.

Our pledge to the Ministry was only **to pay the doctor for every hour** he/she has put in to work.

He also pointed out that he has **decreased the hours performed on a night duty from 30 hours to 13 hours**. As you can see it was actually 29 hours plus 2 hours lunch time, that we were working **previously on average of 4 -5 nights in a month**. With the present shift that the Honourable Minister is talking about is of **13 hours night coverage for a minimum of 8 nights in a month**. **It is understood that human beings sleep at night only**.

After all this time in this fight, we, Doctors, being professionals, had to **“desane lor chemin”** to get us heard and the Hon. Minster, himself, is now looking forward to meet us.

We are not against any innovation and modernization of the Health Sector of Mauritius and that was the reason that the **association participated in negotiations** and agreed to work on the pilot project to work out the feasibility of the shift system in Mauritius. **The result of the pilot project is a failure**.

The Hon. Minster was right to mention that **the association had asked for the shift system**. However, this request was done **in the 90s** and it is understood that the Health Sector situation is not the same **after 25 years**. The population of Mauritius **should not be misled** by stating that the shift system was requested only recently. **Being a responsible administrative body**, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life should have properly studied and **should have already found out that the shift system is not applicable in the Mauritian context**.

The Hon Minister mentioned 350 doctors were recruited for

- 1. For the implementation of shift system**
- 2. To make dispensaries more accessible to the population. (Primary Health Care)**

To answer back to those above:

1. How professional is it from the part of the Ministry that they were still negotiating on the shift system conditions at court, Commission for Conciliation and Mediation and **350 doctors got recruited on shift system without its proper formulation and consensus?**
2. We are pleased to know that the Hon. Minister has considered to provide more accessible primary health care through dispensaries which will be in the interest of the population. We would in turn ask the population **whether they noticed a difference** in the service provide at the local health centers of their vicinity.

A simple calculation of a supplement of 3 doctors posted in the approximately 130 primary health care centers and in the 50 specialised departments in all 5 regional hospitals, without considering district hospitals and mediclinics, leads us to an additional of **not less than 500 doctors** where those 350 doctors can be distributed easily and **even more doctors can be recruited**.

We have set up a Common Front consisting of the MHOA and GMDOA (which regroups all specialists of the Public Sector), being the BACKBONE of the system “**lors terrain**”, along with Federations (FCSOU, SEF) in view to work out a **Master Plan to revolutionize the Public Health Sector** to provide the best treatment to our Mauritian citizens as well as modernize our Health Care centers. This was the only reason that the Association has always let the floor open for negotiations, but instead the Ministry **has closed all avenues of negotiations**.

We, the association of doctors are hereby urging the Hon Minister Husnoo, to stop the shift system with immediate effect and **to join us to build a workshop “atelier de travail”** with the participation of technical officers of his Ministry, job analysts from Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative reforms, the State Law Office, the federations and trade unions to come forward with a **major Reform of the Health Sector of Mauritius in the interest of the population**.

We are open for any negotiations if ever the Ministry is ready to freeze the shift system with immediate effect.

Communique:

1.Meeting with Minister MOHQL today 02/08/17 at 1500

Agenda : Shift System

Venue : 5h floor Emanuel Anquetil Building Port Louis

2.Special General Meeting with

Agenda : MOHQL representatives to explain shift system on 05/08/17

Venue : 3rd floor Unity House Beau Bassin