

Minister's Message

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the publication of the 14th issue of the Hydrology Data Book (2000-2005).

The Hydrology Data Book, prepared by the Water Resources Unit of my Ministry, contains updated data and other useful information on the water resources of Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega.

As the use of surface and groundwater resources is a determinant factor in the promotion of socio-economic development, it is very important to monitor and assess our water resources. Monitoring of our rivers, reservoirs and aquifers is a must to manage water supply throughout the year.

My Government is striving to promote the socio-economic growth of the country, which is dependent to a large extent on the availability of our water resources.

In the circumstances, the Hydrology Data Book will be a useful tool to all those who would be closely involved in the design and implementation of water supply related projects to sustain development and economic growth.

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**(A. Kasenally)
Minister of Public Utilities**

F o r e w o r d

The history of water goes as far back as the history of civilization itself. The growth of population, agriculture and industry has led to an indiscriminate exploitation of this resource. As a result, we are now in face of many water-related problems.

Over 1.1 billion people in the world do not use drinking water from improved sources, while 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation. These figures speak for themselves. So, it is evident that water is a commodity that is not to be taken for granted. It is imperative to be pragmatic in our approach towards the management of water resources.

A scientific approach is imperative for the management of water resources in order to sustain economic growth. In other words, utmost care has to be exercised in the exploitation of this precious resource.

In order to evolve a pragmatic and scientific plan for an integrated water resources management one needs data on hydrogeological, hydrological, hydrometeorological, hydrochemical and hydrogeochemical elements together with other relevant parameters. To that end, an optimal network for data acquisition, storage and retrieval has been set up.

This Hydrology Data Book (Year 2000-2005) prepared by the Hydrology Staff contains the following information : (1) An introduction on the Hydrology of Mauritius; (2) Rainfall data; (3) River/Canal flow data; (4) Data on Groundwater Resources; (5) Data on Storage Reservoirs; (6) Data on Water Quality; (7) Hydrology of Rodrigues and Agalega. In conformity with normal hydrological practice, the data have been compiled by hydrological year, which is from 1st November to 31st October of the following year.

The use of hydrological, hydrogeological, hydrometeorological and hydrochemical data in the design and operation of various categories of water resource projects generates both economic and social benefits. Thus, the Hydrology Data Book is a tool for policy makers, engineers, scientists and other specialists in the management and development of water resources.

I am grateful to the Hydrology Staff for their devotion in the timely preparation of this edition of the Hydrology Data Book.

R. Jagannath
Principal Hydrological Officer