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HSBC Mauritius, in collaboration with the Mauritius Bankers Association (MBA), launches a financial literacy programme in primary government schools

This Joint Qualitative CSR programme aims at creating greater awareness of a savings culture to children at a young age and mainly targets Standard V children.

As such, this Tuesday, **08 September 2009**, was the kick off date for HSBC Mauritius, where presentations were delivered at the Sir Abdool Raman Government School. Some **140 students** of Standard V attended this very first successful and highly interactive session, conducted by volunteering HSBC staff. As part of this initiative, coin boxes, crafted by skillful people of "Lizie Dans La Main", were also donated to the children to allow them to start their own savings.

More so, additional presentations around the island have been planned for the month of September 2009, namely at Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo Government School, Dupéré Government School and Pointe aux Sables Government School, amongst others.

Sandeep Uppal, CEO HSBC Mauritius, comments: "*This can only be good news and I am confident that this initiative shall be an excellent platform to engage with the youth as well as assist in the human development of Mauritians.*"

Chakeel Prayagsing from the MBA adds: "*This is the beginning of a very ambitious project initiated at the level of the Mauritius Bankers Association Limited. The overall aim is to educate, raise financial awareness and encourage a saving culture among students in Zone d'Education Prioritaires (ZEP) schools. The project makes use of bankers' expertise, namely financial knowledge to be served for a social purpose. The project would also be extended to other schools in Mauritius. Such a programme is also the initiative of several associations of banks around the world, including the British Bankers Association and the South African Bankers Association.*"

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Media enquiries to Kashini Kistnasamy on + 230 403 0783 or email kashini@hsbc.co.mu

Notes to editors:

1. The HSBC

In Mauritius, HSBC operates 11 full-service branches and an offshore unit, which for many years has played a leading role in facilitating cross-border investment activity. It offers a wide range of products and services to a diverse domestic and cross border customer base, from accounts services to credit cards, savings, investments, home loans, personal loans and custodian services. Through our new locally incorporated subsidiary, the HSBC Bank (Mauritius) Ltd (HBMU), HSBC is able to offer many of its global customers more sophisticated financial products and structures that benefit from the extensive range of international double taxation avoidance treaties that Mauritius has negotiated.

2. The HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 8,500 offices in 86 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2, 422 billion at 30 June 2009, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Head Office:
18 CyberCity, Ebene
Web: www.hsbc.co.mu

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