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# Overseas jobs for 850 Mauritians

By Nitesh Boodhoo

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) and the Office Francaise de l'Immigration et de l'Integration (OFII) have signed two conventions for the recruitment of 850 Mauritians under the circular migration programme.

A list of 61 professions has been drawn up by the NEF and the OFII for which selected Mauritian candidates will be trained by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) after they have been selected by their French employer.

The selected candidates will have the opportunity to work for a contract of 12-18 months after which they will have to return to Mauritius.

The OFII and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development would also provide funds to assist the selected beneficiaries set up their own business or enterprise after their return.

A sum of Euros 7,000 to 20,000 will be granted to beneficiaries depending on the project if their project has been approved by the selection committee of the French Embassy to Mauritius.

The selected beneficiaries would also benefit from training related to the proposed project and would also be assisted by tutors.

The NEF would receive and compile a list of interested candidates and would assist all those who have been selected by their employers with further formalities. The NEF would help all the selected candidates to set up their projects on their return to Mauritius.

The OFII would act as the facilitator for visa procedures and also

assist Mauritians to adapt to their new environment.

The Chairman of the NEF, Mr Robert Desvaux, told NEWSNOW that the aim of the circular migration programme would be to give Mauritians the chance to have international exposure as well as work experience.

"This will also help these people earn much more money and to participate to the economic development of the country in the future," he said.

The Director General of the OFII, Mr Jean Godfroid, explained that the objectives of this programme would be to set up a circuit of circular migration for the benefits of both countries.

Mr Godfroid added that Mauritian expertise in fields like the tourism industry will be much in demand as this sector is expanding rapidly.

He added that many carers and maids are also in demand because of the ageing population of France.