WORLD POPULATION DAY 2017

World Population Day is a yearly feature celebrated worldwide on 11 July to raise awareness on important population and development issues. The Day was first celebrated on 11 July 1990 following a recommendation of the then Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year, people around the world will be observing the 27th World Population Day to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.

The global theme for this year is

“Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations.”

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has chosen this theme since investing in family planning is investing in the health and rights of women and couples worldwide. These investments also yield economic and other gains that can propel development forward and are thus critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are designed to eliminate poverty, discrimination, abuse and preventable deaths, address environmental destruction, and usher in an era of development for all people, everywhere. Extreme poverty can be eradicated by understanding the complex relationship between family planning, gender equality and economic growth.

The rights of women and girls to decide freely and for themselves, on whether, when and how many children to have, brings women and girls more opportunities to become wage earners, boosting family income levels. As women gain access to productive resources, they also report better health outcomes, achieve higher levels of education and experience a lower incidence of intimate-partner violence.

Source: www.unfpa.org
To mark the World Population Day 2017, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life will carry out a one-day interactive session on fertility decline for young people having as main theme: ‘Providing a supportive environment for couples to form families with two or more children’

Moreover, a series of sensitization campaigns, talks and training programmes and workshops would be organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association, the Action Familiale and the Mauritius alliance of Women to raise awareness among the population on sexual reproductive health issues including family planning.