

Press Release

The Circle
MAURITIUS



Wheels in motion for this year's Cycle Tour

Mauritius 15 August 2005: Plans are well advanced for the 2005 Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100km Cycle Tour, organised by The Circle in association with the Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme (FMC), with entries already received from as far afield as Sweden, Germany and Australia as well as nearer to home, from both local and South African participants.

Deutsche Bank (Mauritius) Limited first became lead sponsor of Mauritius' annual cycle race, The Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100km Cycle Tour, in 2004 and this year has doubled its financial commitment to the Tour by donating in sponsorship MUR 500,000 in addition to underwriting many other marketing costs.

Other sponsors include DHL Express who contributed Rs 175 000 and provide assistance with sending and bringing courier packages to and from Mauritius for the race; hospitality sponsors, Le Preskil, where many overseas cyclists stay and where the race starts; and tour operators, Le Voyageur, who assist with travel arrangements for the overseas competitors.

Warren Luyt, chairman of the organising committee has recently returned from Europe where he took the opportunity to promote this annual event at the Tour de France attracting much attention with the Mauritius flag. In addition, Warren and a team from Le Preskil took the opportunity to raise awareness of the Mauritius Tour at the Argus Expo in South Africa distributing more than 7000 brochures.

He said, *"I am delighted with the interest generated so far and I hope that we can exceed last year's numbers when around 800 contestants including 75 overseas visitors from South Africa and around the region participated"*

"The 100 km Cycle Race is our main event in the annual calendar, and raises most of the funds that are allocated to deserving causes. This race not only benefits the needy, but also the various cycling clubs of Mauritius and our tourist industry. We are grateful to Deutsche Bank for their continued support in underwriting the cost of this event thus maximising the amount of funds that can be directed towards the beneficiary charities".

The reputation of the Deutsche Bank Mauritius Cycle Tour is growing and confirmation has been received that this year's event will be covered by both DSTV's Supercycling and DHL Sports Hour with Andrew McLean's Supercycling team already talking the event up on their weekly programme.

A further challenge has been issued this year in the shape of Investec Bank (Mauritius) Limited throwing down a corporate gauntlet and inviting other banks and organisations within the financial services industry to form teams.

Mr Luyt said, *"A corporate team may comprise any number of members however no licensed cyclists may be included. The time of the third team member to cross the finish line will be the time for that team.*

"To assist the less experienced cyclist, the official website (www.cycletour.mu) contains plenty of training tips and advice and to give potential newcomers a flavour of things to come and help them get used to riding in a bunch a number of training rides are being organised. The first event takes place on Sunday 21 August 2005 starting at 08h30 from IBL, Riche Terre - there's no entry fee, they just need to bring their helmet and their bike!"

In 2004, the Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100k Cycle Tour, which has the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, contributed in the region of Rs 5 million to benefit the Mauritian economy. This was calculated by taking into consideration the travel, accommodation, cost of staging the event and peripheral benefits obtained by retailers

and suppliers both directly e.g., cycling shops and indirectly through general retailers from tourists and cyclists generally. It is hoped that in 2005 this figure will be exceeded.

Javeed Ameen, Chief Country Officer for Deutsche Bank in Mauritius, commented, *"We are delighted to continue our association with The Circle and the Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme in supporting the 100k Cycle Tour. This event goes from strength to strength each year attracting overseas as well as local cyclists. Cycling is a growing sport in Mauritius and last year over 700 competitors completed the 100km course.*

"At Deutsche Bank we work in partnership with our clients and we are pleased to extend this alliance with our community partners, in supporting the Circle Cycle Tour of Mauritius. We are always keen to participate in charitable initiatives in the countries in which we are located and events such as the Deutsche Bank 100km Cycle Tour do a great deal to raise not only much needed funds but also the profile of the very worthwhile local beneficiary charities."

Ends.

Issued by Warren Luyt, Chairman, The Circle Cycling Committee

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Notes to editors

- 1 The Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100k Cycle Tour will take place on Sunday 9th October 2005, starting from Le Preskil Resort Hotel in Mahebourg, finishing at Choisy Beach
- 2 Deutsche Bank (Mauritius) Limited was established in Mauritius in 1999 and is part of Deutsche Bank's Offshore group which has offices in Cayman, Guernsey, and Jersey. More information is available from the Offshore Group's website: www.dboffshore.com.

- 3 The Circle was formed almost fifteen years ago and consists of forty businessmen who meet once a month for fellowship and to organize fund raising events for the benefit of charities in Mauritius.
- 4 The Cycle Tour, the brainchild of local businessman and cycling enthusiast, Barry Haarhof, was first established in Mauritius in 1999 and is run in association with the Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme. The idea is based on the successful South African cycle race, The Argus, which started off very modestly but has grown into a major event with 36,000 cyclists participating.
- 5 How to enter: Mauritius residents may enter on line (www.cycletour.mu) and make payment of their entry fee at Suite 520, Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis prior to the 23 September 2005. Non-residents should click on the "Cycle Events" Tab on the home page and enter via the Supercycling website. Entry forms are available from FMC and various cycling shops in Mauritius, South Africa and France
- 6 DSTV Supercycling is screened on Tuesday nights at 21h00 for the latest in the world of cycling.
- 7 Prizes will be awarded to veterans, mountain bikers and tandems in both male and female categories.
- 8 More information on the Tour is available from www.cycletour.mu.