

- He also has great personal qualities: a quick study and a committed, balanced, pragmatic and considerate person.
- The Minister did not have a chance to engage as he would have liked initially because of the holding of elections at the end of November, the need to take stock of these elections and then the intervening Holiday Season when most ministers decided to take a well deserved leave (save for trips to the APEC Summit in November and the NAC Ministerial in December).
- A Cabinet retreat was held in this building in December and it is important that you be aware of its main conclusions.
 - First, Cabinet took stock of the Liberal Party's resounding victory and of the country's general satisfaction with its main orientations;
 - Second, ministers had the opportunity to discuss the general policy framework which had been developed around town for the new mandate in terms of context and challenges;
 - Third, the Prime Minister confirmed that there would be no significant Cabinet shuffle until the spring, save for a few adjustments (new Secretary of State Mr. Pagtakhan);