



Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management

ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Year 2023 - 2024

GOODLANDS NEW MARKET
FAIR



URBAN TERMINAL PROJECT



PLAINE VERTE SPORTS ARENA



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About this Report

This Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management for the financial year 2023-2024 is a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 4B of the Finance and Audit Act.

The report provides information on the Ministry's performance, achievements and the targets set out in relation to the resources approved by the National Assembly as well as the strategic direction to be implemented by the Ministry.

Statement from the Minister



I am pleased to present the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management for the financial year 2023-2024, which highlights the Financial Performance of the Ministry and also the progress made in terms of key actions of the Ministry.

My Ministry's commitment to effective governance drives us to develop policies that empower local authorities, ensuring they are equipped to meet the needs of their communities. The Ministry have focused on creating an environment that foster community pride and wellbeing.

My Ministry has also reinforced its commitment to disaster risk reduction, implementing modern early warning systems and emergency alerts that prepare communities for potential hazards. The Ministry's proactive approach to disaster risk management has empowered communities to better understand and mitigate the impacts of both natural and man-made hazards.

I would like to commend all the staff of my Ministry and the organisations falling under its purview for their hard work, dedication and unwavering support. I am confident that I can rely on their support and professionalism in meeting the objectives of the Ministry.

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hardwork you already did." – Newt Gingrich

I am optimistic that, with the perseverance and steadfast commitment demonstrated by my Ministry and the organisations under its aegis, we will continue to pursue striving for excellence in public service delivery and to build a prosperous Mauritius.

Dr the Hon Mohammad Anwar HUSNOO, MBChB, DCh, MRCP
Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management

Statement from the Senior Chief Executive



It is my privilege to share the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management for the Financial Year 2023-2024, which reflects the achievements and progress made over the past year.

This report defines the main accomplishments of the Ministry, specifically highlighting our progress in implementing measures, policies and programmes aimed at enhancing the well-being of our citizens. Through these efforts, the Ministry, the Local Authorities, the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, the Field Services Unit, including the Statutory Bodies operating under the aegis of the Ministry, have contributed significantly to the betterment of daily lives of our communities.

The Ministry has remained persistent in its commitment to responsibly and effectively ensure that Local Authorities operate efficiently to meet the needs of the communities. By enhancing preparedness and resilience, the Ministry aims to actively monitor and manage disaster risk reduction efforts to protect communities, minimise risks, and ensure preparedness for any unforeseen events.

The dedication demonstrated by the staff in ensuring that national and local targets are met in a smooth and efficient manner have been exemplary. This commitment has been instrumental in achieving the Mission and Vision of the Ministry.

Dr. Dhanandjay KAWOL
Senior Chief Executive

1.0 About the Ministry

The Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management is responsible for the formulation of national policies and strategies regarding local governance and disaster risk mitigation. It also ensures the establishment of necessary legal framework to ensure that entities under its purview operate smoothly and contribute effectively towards achieving national objectives in respect of:

- ❖ Matters relating to Local Government in Mauritius;
- ❖ Cleaning, landscaping and embellishment of public places;
- ❖ Fire prevention and firefighting as well as rescue service;
- ❖ Provision of a safe environment for the population against natural and man-made disasters by emphasising prevention and mitigation as national priorities, and by maintaining a high standard of preparedness for all hazards; and
- ❖ Providing accurate and timely weather and climate services and early warnings for natural hazards for enhanced socio-economic development of the Republic of Mauritius.

1.1 Vision

This Ministry's vision is to:

- ❖ Foster a vibrant local democracy and promote effective, transparent and proactive delivery of services by Local Authorities, and bridge the development divide between rural and urban areas;
- ❖ Maintain a high level of cleanliness, hygiene and embellishment of environment in public places;
- ❖ Strengthen the resilience of Mauritius so as to substantially reduce and prevent disaster risks and losses in lives, livelihoods and assets of people, communities and businesses;
- ❖ Make the Republic of Mauritius a safe place to be, work and visit anytime and anywhere free from the threats of fire and other calamities/emergencies; and
- ❖ Establish a weather resilient and climate-smart action.

1.2 Mission

Our mission revolves around:

- ❖ Ensuring that Local Authorities adhere to the principles of good governance;
- ❖ Empowering and providing appropriate support to Local Authorities so as to enable them to manage the affairs of the local communities effectively and efficiently;
- ❖ Engagement of all stakeholders in local community affairs;
- ❖ The establishment of the necessary framework for holistic disaster management, including risk assessment, disaster risk reduction, early warning and emergency alerts, to preparedness, response, relief, recovery and rehabilitation;
- ❖ Putting in place modern and reliable early warning and emergency alerts to forewarn the population and first responders as well as emergency management agencies of imminent threats and to advice on appropriate precautionary and preparedness measures to be taken;
- ❖ Reinforcing preparedness at all levels of the society through increased understanding to deal with identified risks of natural and potential man-made disasters;
- ❖ Developing emergency response plans and schemes, and ensure their execution by relevant first responders and emergency management agencies on the ground;
- ❖ Protecting and reducing losses of life and property, and prevent damage to the environment due to fire and other threats; and
- ❖ Providing accurate and timely weather and climate services and early warnings for natural hazards for enhanced socio-economic development of the Republic of Mauritius.

1.3 Core Values

Our core values encompass the following:

- ❖ **Integrity:** We are guided by the highest standards of professional ethics.
- ❖ **Innovation:** We always look forward to innovate.
- ❖ **Quality:** We are result-oriented and are committed to provide quality services.
- ❖ **Teamwork:** We foster teamwork, communication and information sharing.
- ❖ **Timeliness:** We strive to meet targets in a timely manner.

1.4 Main Legislations



- Local Government Act 2011
- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016
- Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service Act 2013
- Mauritius Meteorological Act 2019

2.0 Our People

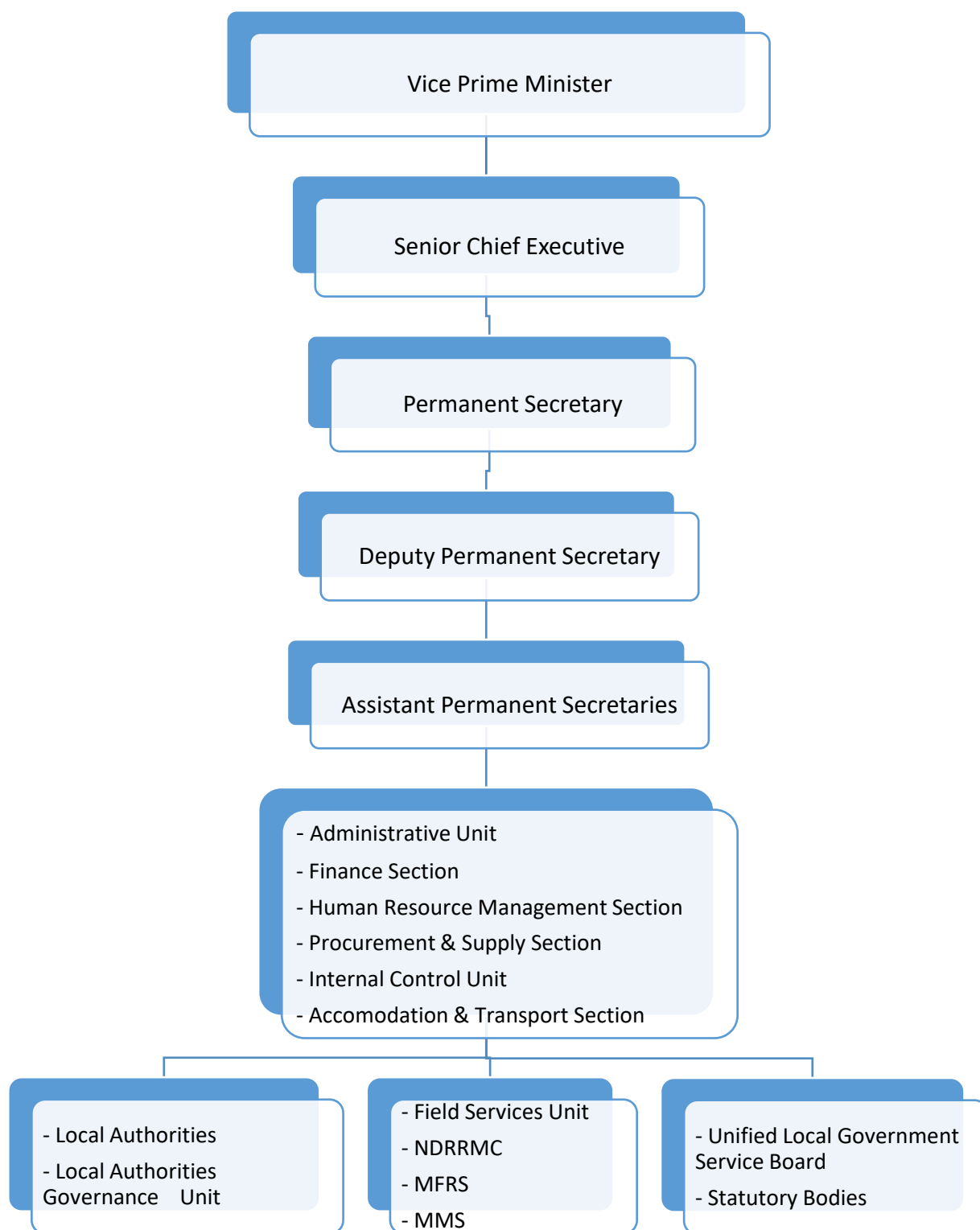
2.1 Staffing Position

The Senior Chief Executive is the administrative head of the Ministry. He is assisted in his functions and duties by a Permanent Secretary, a Deputy Permanent Secretary, five Assistant Permanent Secretaries as well as officers from various cadres and grades.

Section/Unit	Number of Staff
Administrative Cadre	8
Administrative Support Staff	57
Human Resource	6
Finance	7
Procurement and Supply	4
Local Authorities Governance Unit	1
Internal Control	3
Inspectorate	7
Field Services Unit	114
NDRRMC	14
Total	221

2.2 Employment on Contract

Designation	No of Staff
	2023-2024
Adviser to the Minister	2
Land Use and Planning Executive	1
Youth Employment Programme Trainee	3



Organisational structure of the Ministry

2.3 Vacancies filled during financial year 2023-2024

Grade	Number
Recovery Programme Officer (Engineering)	1
Handy worker (Appointed)	3
Driver (Appointed)	2
General Worker (Recruited)	4
Tradesman's Assistant (Appointed)	2

2.4 Gender Staffing Proportion

The staffing position gender-wise as at September 2024 is as follows:

Gender	Percentage
Male	62.10
Female	37.90

2.5 Training of Staff

In line with the government policy, training facilities and variety of courses have been enhanced in our budgetary allocations.

The Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms in collaboration with the of Civil Service College Mauritius provides a variety of training in all relevant fields for officers of different grades so as to be more effective and efficient in their performance of work.

The number of officers trained during financial year 2023/2024 is detailed hereunder:

SN	Types of Training	No. of officers trained
1	Overseas Training	8
2	Local Training	62
3	Courses at MITD for minor grades	3
4	Training of Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service	22
5	Training on Bid Evaluation Procedures by Procurement Policy Office	22
6	Training on First Aid by Ministry of Health and Wellness	20

3.0 Units and Organisations operating under the Ministry

The following bodies/institutions operate under the aegis of the Ministry:

1. Local Authorities;
2. Local Authorities Governance Unit;
3. Land Use and Planning Unit;
4. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre
5. Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service;
6. Mauritius Meteorological Services;
7. Field Services Unit;
8. Unified Local Government Services Board; and
9. Statutory Bodies Protection Fund Board.

3.1 Local Authorities

The Local Authorities is split in rural and urban authorities, comprising of five municipal councils and seven district councils.

The Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, had embarked on its digital transformation journey and technological innovations, through an I-Council pilot project at The District Council of Moka. The pilot project was officially launched on 27 August 2018 by The Honourable Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH, Prime Minister under the government's vision to digitalize local authorities and enhance management efficiency and service delivery.

The I-Council (Innovative-Council) project has been marked by the development of an Enterprise Resource Planning System. Known as the Council Project Management, by an in-house Learning and Development Team of the District Council of Moka. The latter Council had implemented a creative approach to provide services in an efficient and cost-effective manner worth to be replicated in other Local Authorities.

On 16 March 2020, Government decided that the I- Council project be extended to other Local Authorities. It took three years for the Moka team to complete the implementation in all LAs taking into account the Covid-19 period.

The Council Project Management system is an Enterprise Resource Planning system which has been setup to transform bureaucratic procedures into lean processes through reengineering techniques and digitalization. The primary goal of which was to facilitate project and job management functions to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and project execution through lean management principles. To this end, the system evolved into offering to all employees in the hierarchy, a fully integrated digital platform to perform their daily tasks in real time, while providing for automatic reporting. Through this digitalization initiative, CPM allows the Council to manage and function in a paperless environment.

Several significant benefits have emerged from the adoption and implementation of the CPM in Local Authorities such as:

- ❖ making the work-from-home concept a full reality by allowing all employees to function remotely;
- ❖ real time project tracking at all stages from decision making, conception, procurement to completion through its Project Management platform to enhance productivity;
- ❖ real time job tracking through its Asset Management platform to enhance service delivery to the population;
- ❖ registry management through its Database Document Management platform to reduce bureaucratic time and optimise human resources;
- ❖ Individual user Task management through its My-Task platform to enhance day to day management;
- ❖ financial and store management through its Financial Management platform to enhance financial accountability; and
- ❖ integration capabilities with other software such as the National Government Information Service, Fleet Management System, electronic Petition Management Information System, Electronic Management System (EMS) and Citizen Support Unit to ensure seamless coordination with external stakeholders.

The Ministry of Local Government has succeeded in meeting its transformational objectives through the creation of its full-fledged Digital Office at the Ministry, working in real time with the twelve digital offices of the Local Authorities. Monitoring of projects and jobs are no more carried out in a quarterly management manner but, instead, in a real-time permanent mode, enabling our prompt response to challenges faced by the stakeholders. The budget monitoring system, EMS of Public Investment Management Assessment, under the aegis of

the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, which is presently being implemented in all Ministries and even in Rodrigues, was developed by the said digital office. Moreover, the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management has already been solicited to replicate its digital model to other bodies such as the Living Environment Unit of the Ministry of Environment, the National Environment Cleaning Authority and Mauri facilities.

3.2 Local Authorities Governance Unit

The Local Authorities Governance Unit (LAGU) was set up in 2012. The objectives of LAGU are to:

- (a) monitor the performances of the Local Authorities.
- (b) provide support to the Chief Executives of Local Authorities in:
 - (i) Planning, budgeting, and delivery of services;
 - (ii) Financial Reporting; and
 - (iii) Monitoring of Local Authorities Resources.

The achievements of LAGU for the Financial Year 2023-2024 are as follows:

- (a) consolidation of the twelve Local Authorities' Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2022-2023 as per the timeline proposed by the International Monetary Fund;
- (b) continuous follow-up with Local Authorities and coordination with relevant stakeholders for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards in Local Authorities; and
- (c) undertaking a midterm review exercise in January 2024 for the purpose of allocating additional grant to all Local Authorities for their recurrent expenditure.

3.3 Land Use and Planning Unit

The Land Use and Planning Unit is responsible for:

- (i) Advising Local Authorities on the implementation of the provisions of the Local Government Act with respect to Building and Land Use Permits and enforcement against unlawful development works;
- (ii) Advising the Ministry on land development policies;
- (iii) Co-ordinating with Local Authorities in respect of projects of national interest such as projects for renewable, housing projects undertaken by the New Social Living Development Ltd, and projects involving foreign investment; and
- (iv) Management of the online system, the National Electronic Licensing System (NELS), for the processing of applications for Building and Land Use Permits.

Statistics on Building and Land Use Permits

Total number of applications processed by the Local Authorities for the period 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 is 24,393.

Statistics on Enforcement

Under the Local Government Act, Local Authorities are empowered to take action against unlawful development works. In this respect, the following notices are issued:

- (i) Compliance Notice for development works being carried out without a Building and Land Use Permit;
- (ii) Enforcement Notice for development works carried out contrary to the conditions of the BLUP issued; and
- (iii) Pulling Down Notice for development works carried out without a BLUP or in or on any canal, river or drain.

In case of non-compliance with the notices issued, defaulters are prosecuted in court.

Statistics on enforcement action taken by each Local Authority for the period July 2023 to June 2024 are shown below:

Local Authority	No of Compliance Notice	No of Enforcement Notice	No of Pulling Down Notice
Municipal City Council of Port Louis	109	31	65
Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill	158	73	69
Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes	75	29	49
Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix	120	42	83
Municipal Council of Curepipe	35	10	16
District Council of Pamplemousses	106	67	61
District Council of Riviere du Rempart	104	44	46
District Council of Moka	88	18	23
District Council of Grand Port	25	6	16
District Council of Black River	33	14	12
District Council of Savanne	60	25	30
District Council of Flacq	114	63	24

3.2 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) acts as the main coordinating body of the Ministry for the planning, organising, coordinating and monitoring of disaster risk reduction and management activities at all levels.

The NDRRMC operates under the supervision of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, which is chaired by the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management. The NDRRMC is the primary coordinating agency for national disaster management activities in the Republic of Mauritius, and takes a pro-active all-hazard, multi-agency approach to risk management that emphasizes building capacity at all levels from the individual to the institutional. The NDRRMC coordinates with all stakeholders to ensure that risk reduction and preparedness planning is included at the required levels namely at national, municipal and district councils, private sector and communities' levels.

In crisis situation, the National Crisis Committee is convened under the chair of the Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management. The National Crisis Committee shall have all the functions and powers of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and shall take decisive and timely actions through the National Emergency Operations Command to safeguard the life of persons in danger.

3.2.1 Major Activities organised by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre during the Financial Year 2023/24

A. Community Disaster Response Programme and Refresher Course

The impacts of extreme weather events including cyclones, flash floods and storms surges have become matters of major concern. There is an ever increasing need to ensure that the Republic of Mauritius becomes disaster resilient and work towards the 4 priorities for actions and 7 targets as per the Sendai Framework. Mauritius amongst many countries has adopted the Community Disaster Response Programme.

The Community Disaster Response Programme is organised by the NDRRMC. The training is delivered by resource persons from the Police, Special Mobile Force, National Coast Guard,

Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS), the Mauritius Meteorological Services, Police de L'Environnement, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Municipalities/ District Councils and Mauritius Red Cross Society amongst others

For the past few years, Mauritius has replicated the Programme which is based on a 'self-help mutual help' motto, in various vulnerable areas to train community members to effectively respond to crisis/emergency situation. The CDRP is designed to help communities prepare for effective disaster response through training and pre-planning to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge on basic disaster preparedness and response skills.

The objectives of the Programme are: -

- To establish Community Disaster Response Teams in vulnerable regions;
- To inculcate a culture of Risk Reduction within the population;
- To build the capacity of the most vulnerable communities to response to any; crisis or disaster prior to the arrival of First Responders; and
- To empower the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) to assist First Responders upon their arrival on scene.

The CDRP educates volunteers about basic disaster preparedness and response skills such as Fire Safety, Rope Handling, First Aid, Water Rescue Activities, Basic Camp Management, Team Building and Sand Bagging amongst others. With such appropriate training provided to them, they would respond promptly to assist persons in distress until the arrival of First Responders, namely the Police, Special Mobile Force, Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service, National Coast Guard and SAMU. A presentation is also made by the Local Disaster Management Coordinator of the region.

The CDRP training for Community Volunteers comprises of different modules which are covered over a period of days depending on the course content. The Programme provides an effective first-response capability and encourages trained members to be involved in actions during emergencies. When a disaster strikes, CDRT members are trained to do an assessment of the situation first and then to respond by making use of the skill they acquired through

training provided to them, as long as it is safe for them to do so. The trained volunteers also assist First Responders in events such as shelter support, crowd control and many more.

Upon completion of the course, all participants receive a certificate which formally recognizes them as a CDRP. Each member is provided with a disaster kit comprising of protective gloves, raincoat with reflecting tape, whistle, search light and batteries, reflecting safety vest and rubber boots which are to be used in emergency situations. The team is also provided with two First Aid kits, Dynamic Ropes (2 rolls of 25 mts) and Static Ropes (2 rolls of 25 mts) as well as Directional Signages.



Rope Handling



First Aid



Rescue



Vulnerability and
Capacity Assessment



Rescue at sea



Award of Certificates

CDRP and Refresher Course carried out for FY 2023/24

S.N	District/Municipal Council concerned	Area/Village targeted	Date of Training
Year 2023			
1	Municipal City Council of Port Louis	Roche Bois SWC	14,15 & 16 September 2023
2	Municipal Council of Vacoas Phoenix	Parisot Municipal Multipurpose Complex, Mesnil, Phoenix Social Hall,	26,27 & 28 September 2023
Year 2024			
1	Municipal Council of Curepipe	Dame Rosina Henrison M/Purpose Complex	30, 31 May 2024 & 01 June 2024

B. Simulation Exercises

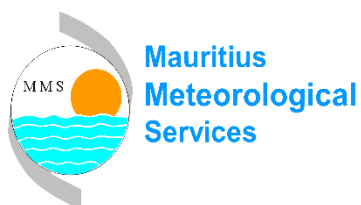
A Simulation Exercise is a disaster scenario-based event created with the purpose of testing the plans and procedures that would come into effect during a real emergency, helping to identify strengths and weaknesses. Emergency responders are given the chance to develop their skills and knowledge and it also provides a valuable opportunity for the various stakeholders to meet and work together to improve coordination. Simulation exercises thus promote a culture of disaster risk reduction including enhanced preparedness for effective response, as called for by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Priority 4: 'Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.

i. Simulation Exercises involving the participation of the NDRRMC for FY 2023/24

SN	Date	Organisation	Exercise	Location
Year 2023				
1	01 July 2023	Jointly by Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes and Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix	FLOODING	At Solferino & Bassin
2	08 July 2023	RDRRMC	FLASHFLOOD	Grand Bay Rodrigues
3	28 July 2023	District Council of Savanne	LANDSLIDE	Abbatoire Road, Surinam
4	28 July 2023	District Council of Pamplemousses	FLOODING	Creve Cœur
5	25 to 27 July 2023	NDRRMC/NEOC jointly with MoE	OIL SPILL ICW Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Ex TX (Table Top)	ICW Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Ex TX (Table Top)
6	11 August 2023	District Council of Grand Port	FLOODING	Plaine Magnien
7	17 August 2023	Gas Transport Ltd	ROAD ACCIDENT	VIVO Energy Mauritius at Royal Road, Morc. Swan, T/Bay

8	18 August 2023	Vivo Energy Mauritius	FIRE DRILL	At waste area Bo Vallon Mall
9	05 September 2023	District Council of Savanne	LANDSLIDE	L'Escalier (near Social Security Lane)
10	05 September 2023	Municipal Council of Curepipe	FLOODING (Table Top)	Atlee, NHDC Jasmin, Cité Str Luc, Forest Side
11	06 September 2023	District Council of Pamplemousses	FLOODING AND SOIL EROSION	Le Hochet
12	26 to 28 September 2023	Maritime Security Precaution Response Exercise	MASEPOLREX2023	NDRRMC/NOSCP
13	25 to 29 September 2023	Ministry of Environment and Solid Waste Management & NDRRMC	FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (FTX) of vessel having cracked & oil spilled	off Western Coast of Tamarin
14	20 October 2023	Vivo Energy Mauritius	ROAD ACCIDENT (truck and other other vehicle)	
15	25 October 2023	NDRRMC & District Council of Grand Port	IOWAVE- Tsunami Warning and Emergency response (SOPs)	Quatre Soeur (Physical Evacuation)
16	26 November 2023	AML	OFF- AIRPORT\ AIRCRAFT CRASH	at Blue Bay
17	24 November 2023	AEL DDS LTD	FIRE DRILL inv Petroleum Bulk Truck	Transport & Logistics & Engen Petroleum (Mauritius Ltd)
Year 2024				
1	15 February 2024	Joint Exercise by AEL DDS LTD Transport & Total Energies Marketing Mauritius Ltd	Road accident involving a Petroleum Bulk Truck	Belle Vue Harel Motorway
2	21 May 2024	District Council of Savanne	Table Top Flood SIMEX	Savanne DC, Souillac
3	23 May 2024	District Council of Grand Port	Flooding	Bambous Virieux

3.5 Mauritius Meteorological Services



1. ISO Certification.

On 29 December 2023, the Mauritius Standards Bureau re-certified that Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) has a quality management system for the provision of services related to weather and climate as well as issuance of warnings for related natural hazards, in accordance with MS ISO 9001:2015. This certificate is valid until 28 December 2026. It is to be noted that the first certificate of registration was issued on 29 December 2008.

2. Award

The MMS was awarded Bronze Award by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council on 17 May 2024, for participating in the National Productivity and Quality Excellence Award 2024. The theme was “Achieving Excellence through Productivity and Quality Improvements”. The MMS presented the functions of its Instrument Calibration Laboratory that became operational on 23 October 2019, and was further improved with additional instruments in April 2024.

3. Projects

The Japan International Cooperation Agency project for Enhancing Meteorological Observation, Weather Forecasting and Warning Capabilities was successfully completed on 19th April 2024.

The MMS has also embarked in Systematic Observing and Financing Facility (SOFF) project. This is led by the World Meteorological Organisation aimed at improving the observation gap in the Southwest Indian Ocean. The South Africa Weather Services conducted a gap analysis and submit to SOFF to disburse funds. The Republic of Mauritius will benefit from equipment to improve observation network in Mauritius, Rodrigues, St Brandon and Agalega.

4. Aligning with Health and Safety Policy

The Fire Certificate for Aeronautical Meteorological Station at the SSR International Airport was renewed and is valid until 16 August 2025.

The Radar Station at Trou aux Cerfs was awarded Fire Certificate on 04 April 2024, and is valid until 03 April 2027.

To ensure a safe and Healthy environment, the MMS reconstituted the various committees namely: Safety and Health Committee, Fire Certificate Committee, Risk Assessment Committee, Occupational Safety and Health Management System and the General OSH Monitoring Committee.

To enhance the safety of its employees, the MMS started the third and final phase of rewiring. Being an essential service, MMS procured a new generator to ensure stable electric supply.

In line with the Government Policy on greening the public sector, the MMS started a project to install solar panels at Agalega to significantly reduce petroleum consumption (diesel/petrol).

5. Improvement of network of observation and communication

The meteorological observations are vital for in-situ assessment of weather, modelling and climate analysis. The MMS procured 4 additional Automatic Weather Stations to improve the observation network. This is in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury which requires the phasing out of mercury-based equipment, to which Mauritius has ratified and signed. These were installed at Midlands, Baie du Cap, Mon Loisir Sugar Estate and Le Morne. In addition, the MMS started discussions with the Sugar Estates on joint public-private-engagement (PPE) to replace conventional with automatic stations.

The Agalega Meteorological Station is now equipped with a laptop, mobile phone with internet to improve communication.

6. Capacity building of personnel

The MMS has always ascertained continuous capacity building of its staff. Two Trainee Meteorologists completed the Advanced Course in General Meteorology. Diploma courses

for MTT and MT Cadre are on-going. Staff of the MMS followed courses at the Civil Service College.

7. Security

With the consultancy from the Mauritius Police Force, the MMS has started the procedures to install CCTV cameras at the MMS.

3.6 Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service



The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for taking necessary actions to prevent and manage fires, as well as protect lives, property, and the environment during emergencies. Their duties include:

- ❖ preventing, combating, controlling, and extinguishing fires;
- ❖ safeguarding individuals, animals, property, and the environment from fires and other emergencies;
- ❖ educating the public on fire prevention and safety measures for emergencies;
- ❖ offering training courses on fire safety and emergency readiness;
- ❖ organizing community awareness and educational programs about fires and emergencies;
- ❖ assisting relevant authorities to enhance safety in buildings;
- ❖ collaborating with emergency service providers, including maritime interventions;
- ❖ providing rescue and recovery services for individuals, animals, or property in danger from accidents, regardless of fire risk;
- ❖ delivering humanitarian aid to protect lives and property during disasters or calamities;
- ❖ submitting regular reports and any additional information requested by the Minister; and
- ❖ carrying out other functions as assigned by relevant laws or regulations.

Major Achievements 2023-2024

1. Firefighting Appliances and Equipment.

The MFRS procured appliances and equipment to increase the operational capability and enhance operational state of preparedness and ensure prompt response to emergencies such as fires and flooding as follows:

- (a) eight (8) Utility Double cab which have already been delivered and are fully operational;
- (b) two (2) Breathing Apparatus Compressors for the refilling of Breathing Apparatus cylinders used by firefighters during emergencies;
- (c) four (4) Portable pumps to increase capability to deal with flooding incident;
- (d) implementation of Fleet and Equipment Management System for efficiencies and support service delivery to ensure prompt mobilization of resources to incident site; and
- (e) Personal Protective Equipment to the tune of approximately Rs 8M to better equipped firefighter to perform their duty.

The MFRS also embarked on the modernisation and automation of the MFRS main control room through the implementation of Control Room Mobilization Management System for efficiencies and to enhance service delivery. The Phase 1 has been completed. Modern Radio Communication equipment and devices were acquired for enhancing the existing Radio Communication System.

2. Enforcement of statutory fire safety requirements in high-risk premises.

1248 high risk premises inspected to ensure compliance with statutory fire safety requirements which comprises registered night clubs, employees lodging accommodations, filling stations, bulk fuel depots, gas retail stores, inflammable liquids and substances stores were inspected to ensure compliance.

3. Fire Certificate

The MFRS has inspected some 6308 prescribed buildings in accordance with the MFRS Act 2013 and issued 5309 fire certificates to ensure compliance with fire safety requirement during the Financial Year 2023-2024.

4. Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness Campaign

558 sessions conducted by MFRS with a view to sensitize target groups comprising students, employees at their place of works, housewives, senior citizens, local communities, clubs and associations on fire safety, disaster preparedness, risk reduction and emergency response. The MFRS also participate actively in events organized by the Citizen Support Unit under the purview of the Prime Minister's Office.

5. Fire incident and non-fire incident attended by MFRS

MFRS attended to some 9453 fire incidents and 9203 non-fire incidents with an average response time of 9 minutes.

6. Fleet and Equipment Management System

The MFRS has embarked on a complete web-based Fleet and Equipment Management System project equipping the MFRS vehicles with Global Positioning System and other devices interfacing with a web-based Equipment for monitoring.

The FEMS provide all round the island coverage and is configured such that each site has access to data pertaining to its fleet of vehicles providing live tracking, detailed activities of MFRS fleet and exact position of each vehicle for better co-ordination which as a result trigger fast deployment thus enhancing productivity as well as cut down expenses by monitoring and managing the fleet of vehicles.

7. National Electronics Licensing System

The Fire Safety Division of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service embarked on a Digital Transformation since 13 September 2021 for the issue of Fire Certificate to simplify business processes and making public services efficient and prompt service delivery. Applications are made electronically through the National Electronic Licensing System from anywhere anytime provided that the applicant has an internet facility and a computer. This system was launched to facilitate the work of applicants without them having to displace to the customer counter at Port Louis and do online payments. The system help applicant to make online application, online payment, received online fire Certificate and view their application status.

8. Control and Mobilising Management System

The MFRS has embarked in the implementation of a reliable Control and Mobilising Management System for the effectiveness, efficiency and safety of successful management of emergency incident.

3.7 Field Services Unit

1. During the year 2023-2024, the Field Services Unit (FSU) has been involved in various projects, namely:

- (a) laying of Kerbs;
- (b) tiles Laying Works (Floor & Wall);
- (c) renovation of Toilets;
- (d) plumbing works for Kitchen, Yard, and others;
- (e) construction of Concrete Structures (Staircase; Ramp; Wash Basin; Kitchen Table);
- (f) plastering works for Concrete Structures;
- (g) welding works and Construction of Metal Structures (Racks; Sheds, Securing Works; Burglar Proof; Door; Gates and others);
- (h) painting Works (Metal and Concrete Structures);
- (i) demolition of Concrete Structures and Carting away of its debris;
- (j) carpentry Works (Formworks; Shuttering; Pad Footing; Strip Footing; Columns; Beams and others);
- (k) electrical Works in buildings;
- (l) cabinet Making Works (Decorative Structures; Tables; Chairs; Doors; Flower Box and Furniture among others);
- (m) minor Repairs of Furniture and Filing Cabinets;
- (n) assisted in Cleaning Campaigns during weekends by providing labour and vehicles;
- (o) brush Cutting Works;
- (p) assisted Fire Services in Cleaning of Land;
- (q) cutting of trees and Lopping of branches;
- (r) carting away of Wastes for our Ministry and other Ministries;
- (s) design and Implementation of Civil, Electrical and Plumbing Works;
- (t) assisting Municipality of Port Louis for Clearing Purposes during Dengue Outbreak;

- (u) spraying of Herbicides on Bare Lands; and
- (v) partitioning Works;

2. The FSU carries out the following works on a daily basis:

2.1 - Cleaning of Motorways from Airport to Grand Bay

- (a) Collect and Carting away loose litters.
- (b) Disposal of dead animals (found on Motorway) to transfer stations.
- (c) Cleaning of drains.
- (d) Carting away of debris and branches.
- (e) Cleaning, sweeping and removal of wastes found on Bus Shelters along Motorway.

2.2 - Maintaining a Nursery at La Butte

- (a) Donation of decorative plants (For Blood Donation Events) and on loan upon requests.
- (b) Regular Maintenance of Plants in EAB Offices and VPM Office (Changing flower pots, watering and maintenance).

2.3 - Maintaining/Operating Transport Fleet

- (a) For continuity of 'hotline' services (Disposal of dead animals).
- (b) For continuity of Scavenging Services throughout the Island and Motorway (Airport to Grand Bay).
- (c) For Construction Projects (Dumper, Lorry, Skid-steer, Back-Hoe-Loader and Roller).
- (d) For Provision of Transport to other Ministries and Organisation.

2.4 - Housekeeping in Workshops

Maintaining a clean and organised workshop is essential for ensuring optimal productivity and efficiency. At our Welding Workshop, Painting Workshop and Woodworks Workshop, we understand the importance of keeping our working areas clean and tidy. We make it a priority to clean our workshops regularly to ensure that they are ever-ready for all types of work. In so doing, we not only promote a safe and healthy environment, but we also create a positive work culture where everyone takes pride in their work and in their workspace. Our commitment to cleanliness and organisation is reflected in the quality of

work we produce, and we strive to maintain this standard of excellence in everything we do.

3. The FSU carries out the following works as and when required:

3.1 - The FSU provides Scavenging Lorries to the Beach Authority and NECA as and when required.

3.2 - The FSU also provides other vehicles such as Lorries and Vans to different Ministries for the transportation of materials/equipment/unserviceable items and for relocation purposes.

3.3 - Brush Cutting, cleaning and clearing works have been done as and when required at the following sites, upon request:

- Jin Fei;
- Government Quarters, Suffolk Avenue No 15 & No 17;
- Bare Land at Bel Ombre;
- Bare Land at Mare D'Albert;
- Parking of Renganaden Seeneevassen Building in Port Louis;
- Meteorological Station in Vacoas;
- Doppler Radar Weather Station, Trou aux Cerfs;
- Cité Florida, Child Day Care Centre, Baie du Tombeau;
- Les Salines Cemetery;
- Bare Land at Route Militaire;
- Other Ministries' Yard; and
- FSU Yard, La Butte.

2. Construction of a concrete platform at Quartier Militaire Social Welfare Centre



Clearing works and spraying of herbicides at Bel Ombre



Upgrading Works at Plaine Magnien Social Welfare Centre



Tiling, Plumbing, Painting & Electrical Works at Midlands Multipurpose Complex



3.8 United Local Government Statutory Board (ULGSB)

The ULGSB has been set up under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 2011 and is operational at the level of the Ministry with a view to optimize human resources in Local Authorities. The ULGSB is responsible to inter-alia:

- ❖ approve the establishment of any office of emolument in the service of a Local Authority;
- ❖ change the posting of an officer, except an officer from the workmen's group, from one Local Authority to another;
- ❖ redeploy officers;
- ❖ issue guidelines on general human resource matters;
- ❖ approve loans to eligible officers;
- ❖ determine applications for leave without pay made by officers; and
- ❖ approve scheme of service.

3.9 Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund

The Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund formerly known as the "Widows and Orphans" (Statutory Bodies) Pension Fund was established by Ordinance 41 of 1966 to provide for the payment of a monthly pension to spouses of Municipal employees, District Councils, Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and the Town and Country Planning Board, who pass away whilst still in service or after retirement. The Fund is managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Ministry.

4.0 Projects funded under the National Environment and Climate Change Fund (NECCF)

For the financial year 2023-2024, the Local Authorities were provided the following budget under the NECCF:

- Rs 80 M for cleaning and rehabilitation of drains and bridges, desilting and dredging of rivers;
- Rs 15 M for bulky waste collection; and
- Rs 10 M for cleaning and embellishment of other public sites.

The main activities carried out by Councils from the above funding were:

- cleaning and desilting of drains, rivers and canals;
- carrying out cleaning and embellishment works with the objective of embellishment, towns, villages and public sites; and
- collection of bulky waste in towns and villages.

The Ministry is also responsible for several projects under the NECCF, as follows:

- Acquisition of Compactor/Tipper Lorries and others;
- Acquisition of Household Bins;
- Landslide Management Works at Morcellement Hermitage, Coromandel;
- National Multi-Hazard Emergency Alert System (Phase 1);
- Automatic Rain gauge and Weather Stations and Climate Database Management Systems; and
- National Multi-Hazard Emergency Alert System Phase 2 (Consultancy).

Post-Belal

Following the passage of the cyclone Belal in January 2024, which provoked floods in many regions including Port Louis, the Ministry was allocated funds for the following:

- cleaning of Drains and Remedial Works;
- cleaning and Carting Away of Wastes;
- rehabilitation of Roads; and
- acquisition of Equipment.

5.0 Internal Control

Internal Auditing is an independent and objective assurance and consulting activity that is guided by a philosophy of adding value to improve the operations of the Ministry/Department. It assists Management in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the organization's risk management, control, and governance processes.

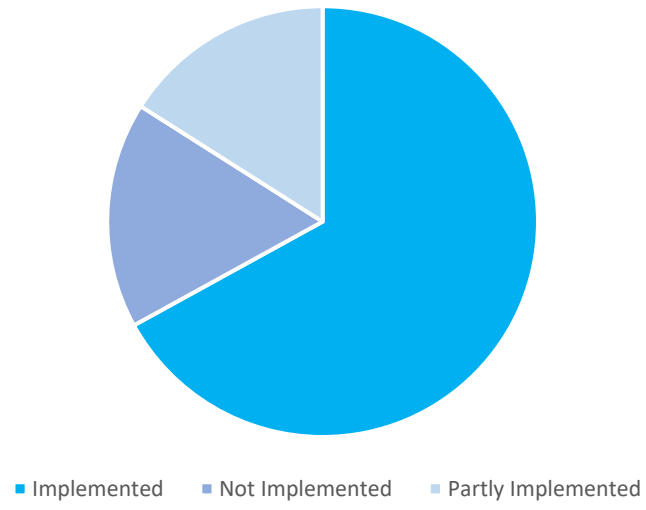
The Internal Auditing Staff shall govern themselves by adherence to The Institute of Internal Auditors' "Code of Ethics." The Institute's "*International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*" (*Standards*) shall constitute the operating procedures for the department.

The Internal Audit Standard Operational Procedure Manual delineates the policies, standards and procedures which govern the internal audit function.

At the end of each quarter, follow up is conducted on engagement findings and agreed recommendations to ascertain corrective actions have been initiated. All recommendations not implemented are referred to the Audit Committee.

Follow up audit was carried out on 88 recommendations issued for the Financial Year 2023/24 to determine the status of recommendations implemented. At least 67% of the recommendations have been implemented with 33 %, still in progress. Results of the follow up audit are illustrated in the following PIE Chart.

Recommendations



6.0 Financial Performance

Statement of Expenditure

6.1 Budgetary Provision for the Ministry

The amount budgeted for each vote for the financial year 2023-2024 was as follows:

Vote	Name of Ministry/ Sub Department	Amount Budgeted (Rs 000)
5-1	Local Government	5,364,000
5-2	National Disaster Risk Reduction	26,300
5-3	Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services	735,000
5-4	Mauritius Meteorological Services	127,000
Total		6,252,300

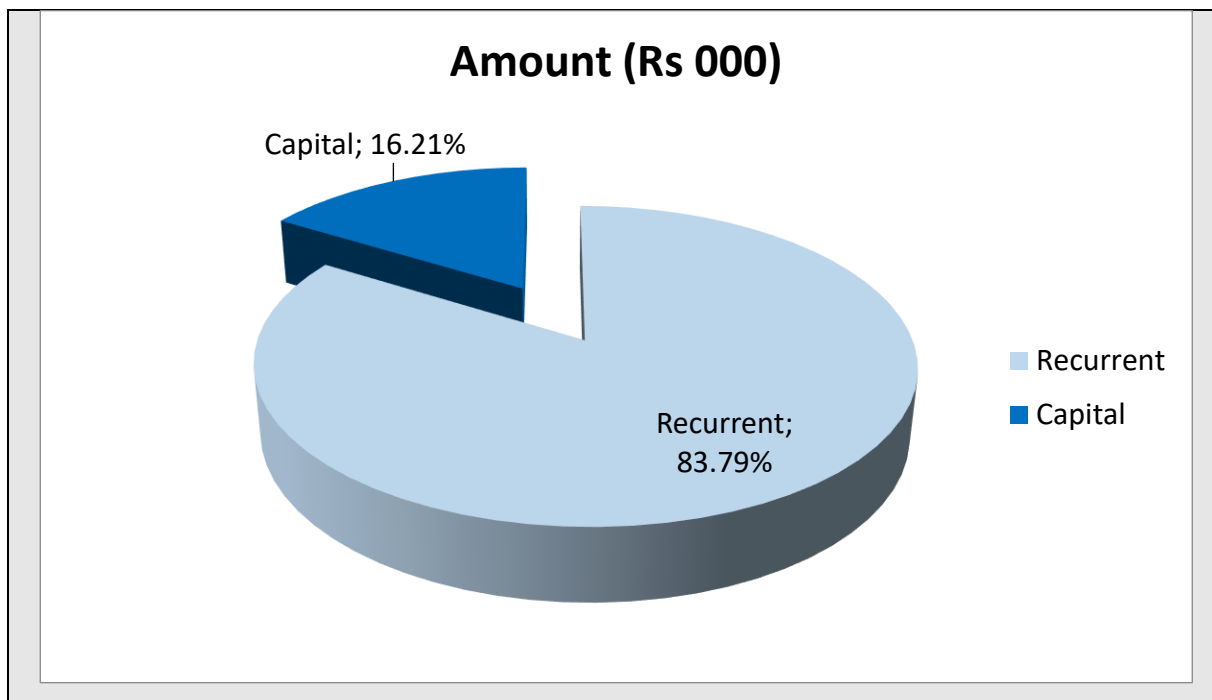
Vote appropriated for the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management

6.2 Recurrent and Capital Grants for 2023-2024 (Vote 5-1)

The table below shows the Recurrent and Capital Grant for financial year 2023-2024 for Vote 5-1

Expenditure	Amount (Rs 000)
Recurrent	4,494,600
Capital	869,400
Total	5,364,000

Recurrent and Capital Grant for financial year 2023-2024 for Vote 5-1



Recurrent and Capital Grant for financial year 2023-2024 for Vote 5-1

(Vote 5-1) Figure 26: Recurrent and Capital Grant for FY 2023-24 for Vote 5-1

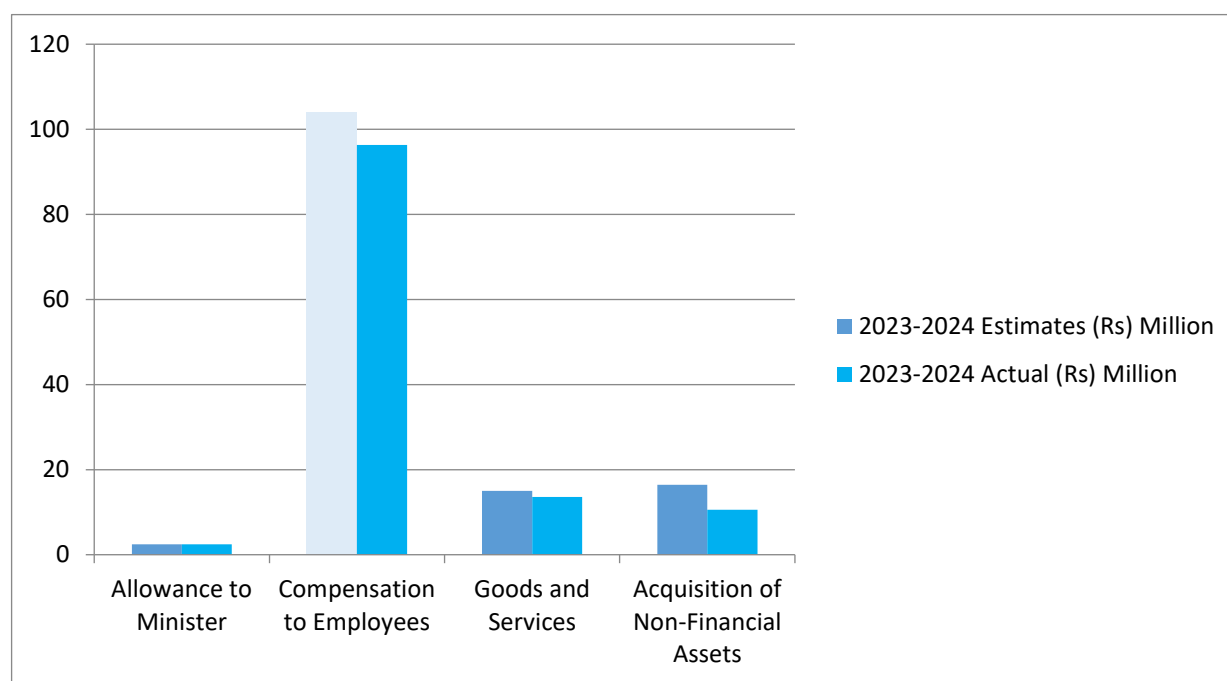
It can be observed that for the Vote 5-1, which comprise of the Ministry's expenditure and the Grant-in-Aid allocated to Local Authorities, recurrent expenses represent 83.79 percent of the Ministry's Budget Estimates and Capital Expenditure 16.21 percent.

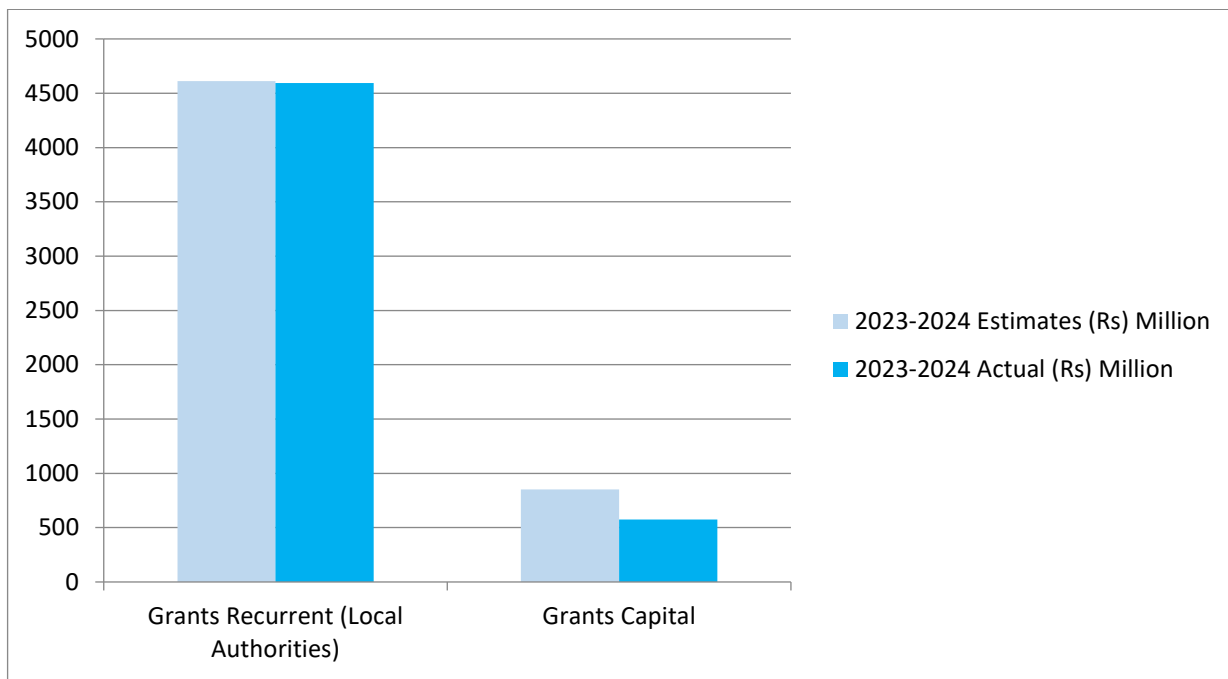
6.3 Summary of Statement of Expenditure by Economic Categories (Vote 5-1)

Ministry of Local Government Vote 5-1 and 5-2	2022 -2023 Actual (Rs) Million	Additional Fund	2023-2024 Actual (Rs) Million
Allowance to Minister	2.44		2.44
Compensation to Employees	84.62		96.37
Goods and Services	9.82		13.61

Grants Recurrent (Local Authorities)	4874.84	237.5	4593.7
Grants Capital	416.07		576.46
Acquisition of Non- Financial Assets	10.11		10.53
Total	5397.96	237.5	5293.11

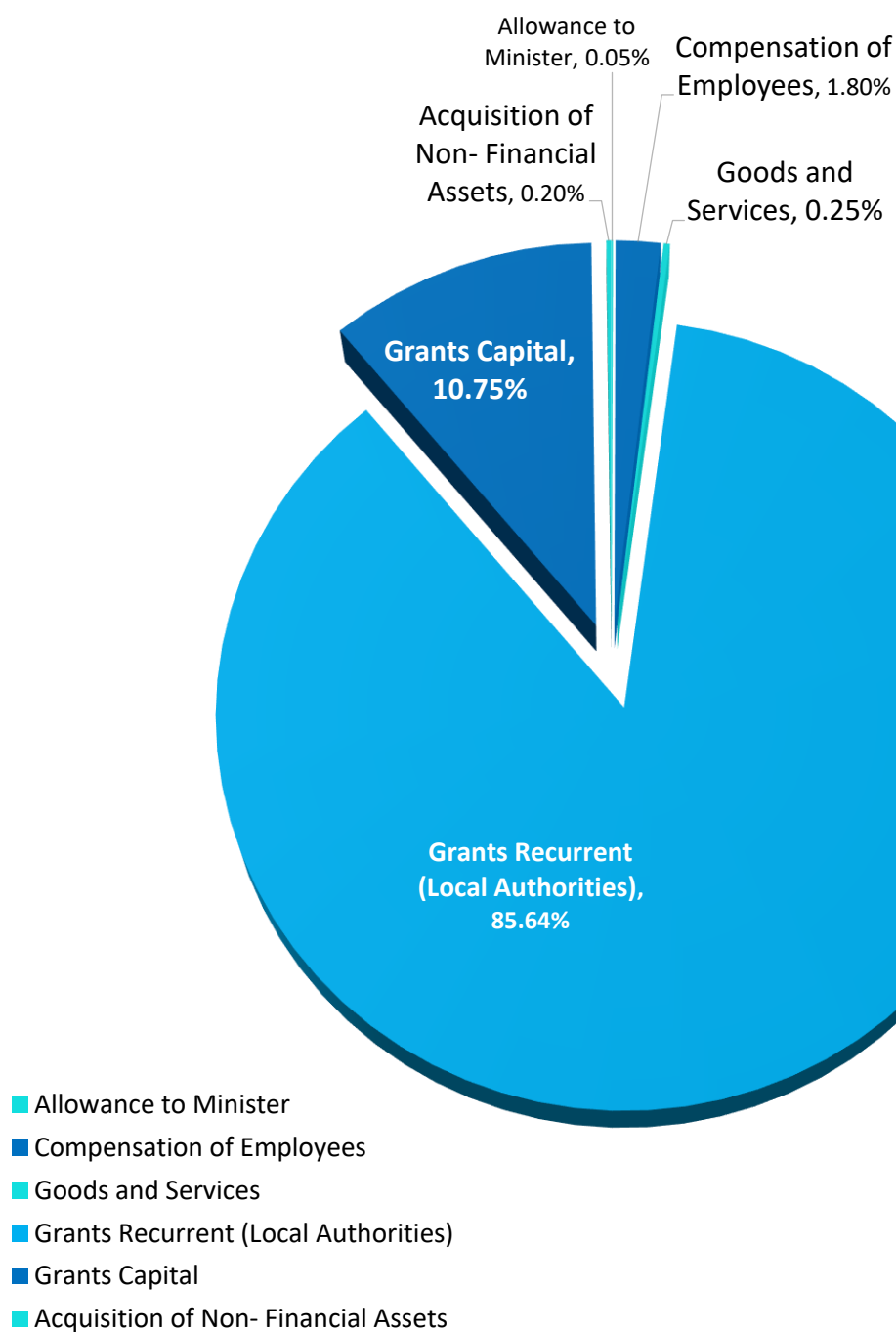
Expenditure incurred by the Ministry in financial year 2023-2024 under Vote 5-1 by economic classification





The table and charts above provide an illustration of expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management in FY 2023-24 under Vote 5-1 by economic classification.

2023/2024 Actual



Classification of Economic Categories –Actual Expenditure (in terms of percentage)

6.4 Grant to Local Authorities (Recurrent Expenditures)

It can be observed from the above Table that a major part of the total Budget has been earmarked for 'Grants to Local Authorities', which was subject to an increase in its Budget for the Financial Year 2023-2024 by around Rs.237.5M.

During the course of the year and following the midterm review exercise, Councils were provided with additional Grant-In-Aid to the tune of Rs. 215 M to enable them to maintain their level of activities. Moreover, funds to the tune of Rs 10.5M have been released to the Municipal Council of Port Louis for payment to Victoria Station Ltd (VSL) and compensation to Pick N Eat Rs 4.6 M. Rs 7.4 M to the District Council of Grand Port to meet its obligations towards Arbitration for Mahebourg Market.

Grant Capital

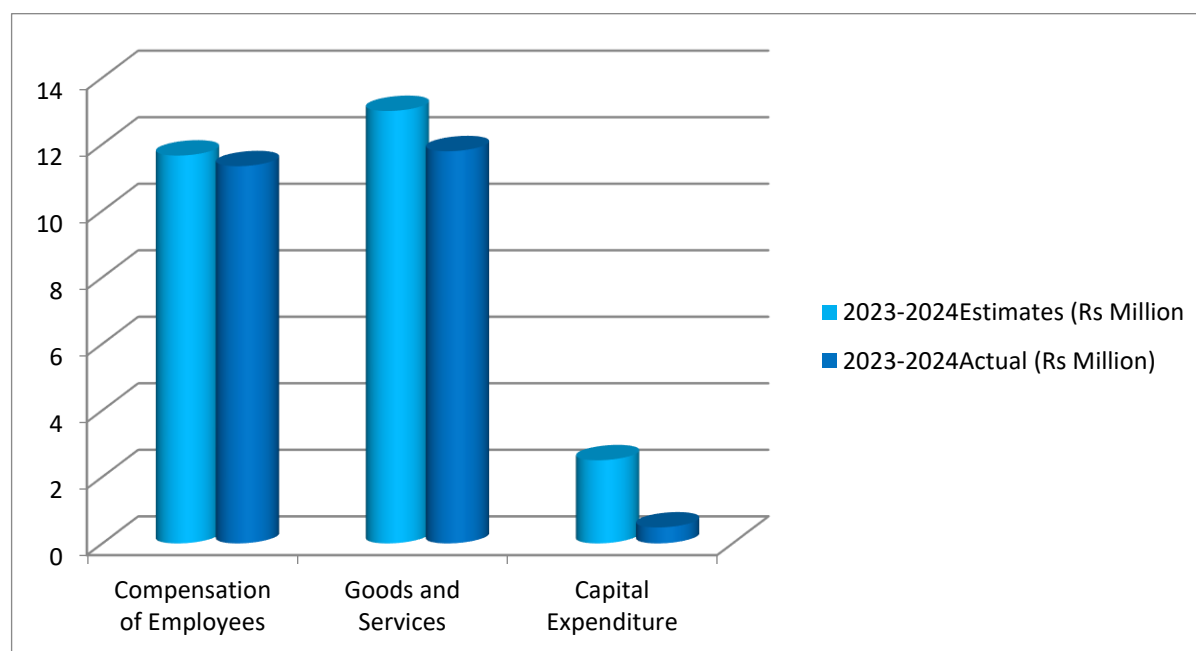
For the FY 2023-2024, an amount of Rs 853 M has been earmarked for Capital Expenditure in respect of projects financed under the 'Local Development Projects' and which comprise mainly:-

- Construction of Head Offices – Rs. 29 M
- Renovation of Plaza Theatre at Rose Hill – Rs. 5 M
- Renovation of Port Louis Theatre (Phase II) _ Rs 23 M
- Multipurpose Complexes – Rs. 62.5.M
- Market Fairs – Rs. 123.5 M
- Setting up of Incinerators – Rs. 30 M
- Construction and Upgrading of Amenities – Rs 123M
- Small Development Projects -Rs 97M
- Other Infrastructure and Amenities –Rs 151.6M
- Construction and Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure Rs 80 M
- Road Rehabilitation Programme –Rs 100M

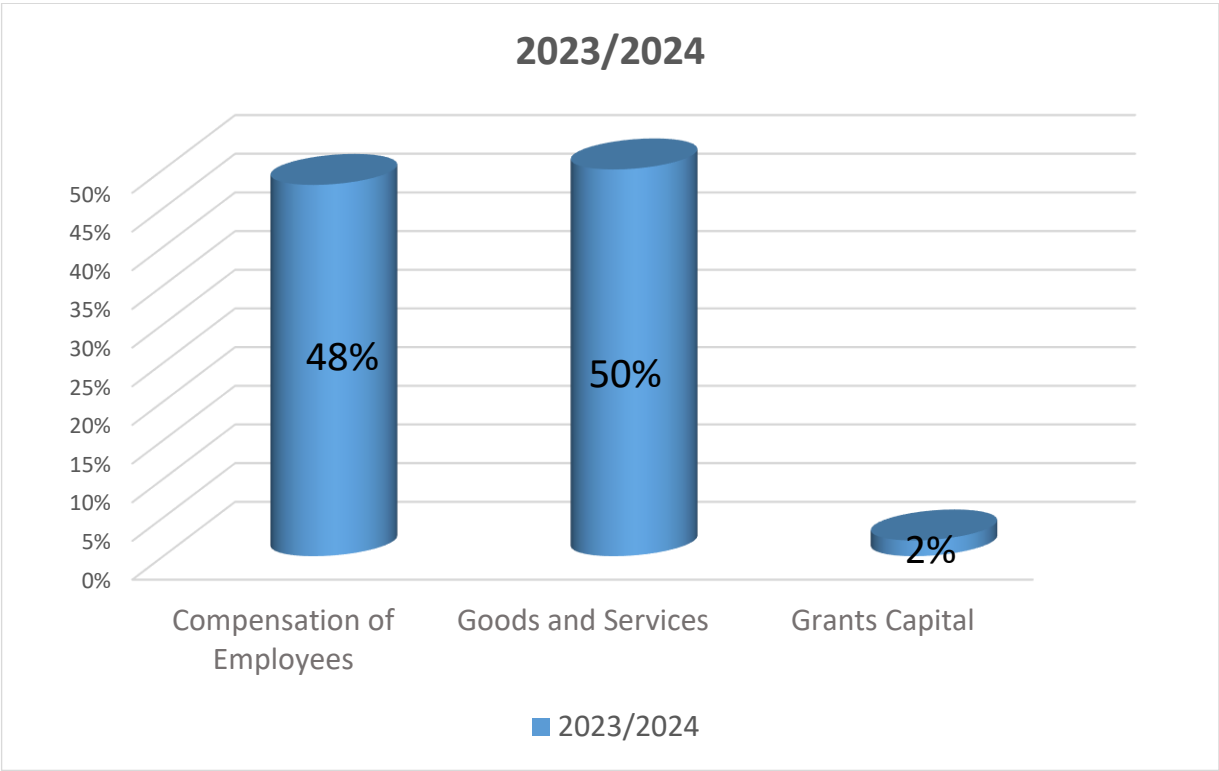
6.5 Summary Statement of Expenditure by Economic Categories (Vote 5-2) – National Disaster Risk Reduction

National Disaster Risk Reduction Vote 5-2	2023-2024 Estimates (Rs Million)	2023-2024 Actual (Rs Million)
Compensation of Employees	10.8+ (additional fund of Rs 857,300 provided during the year)	11.34
Goods and Services	13	11.79
Capital Expenditure	2.5	0.48
Total	27.16	23.61

The total budget of the Ministry allocated to National Disaster Risk Reduction (Vote 05-2) was **Rs 26.3M** and around 49 percent was allocated to Goods and Services, with 41 percent allocated to Compensation of employees and 10 percent for Capital Grants as illustrated below.



Estimates for Vote 5-2 for FY 2023-2024



Classification of Economic Categories –Actual Expenditure (in terms of percentage)

7.0 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee for financial year 2023-2024 held six meetings during the period under review. A series of remedial actions/follow up actions have been taken on the issues highlighted in the Action Plan as hereunder:

Follow up has been carried out on the following internal control reports:

- (i) Warehouse Management;
- (ii) Asset Management; and
- (iii) Transport Management at Head Office and Field Services Unit.

Furthermore, a Risk Management Framework has been prepared by the Risk Management Committee.

8.0 Urban Terminal Projects

Urban Regeneration – Urban Terminals

In the Budget Speech 2016/2017, Government had highlighted the following:

- ❖ the existing towns and villages are suffering from a sustained period of poor land use planning;
- ❖ the transport strategy of Mauritius has been disconnected from its urban and rural planning; and
- ❖ a holistic and coherent urban planning and development strategy is imperative; Therefore, Government had decided that Mauritius needs an affordable mass transit system along with a network of modern urban terminals comprising parking facilities, food courts, commercial spaces, dedicated hawker areas and green spaces. This type of project will be a game changer as it will totally redesign the towns, create new growth poles around the terminals, drastically reduce the commuting time for the citizens, raise productivity, eliminate the inconvenience of traffic congestion, save on the country's import bills and significantly cut down pollution.

Victoria Urban Terminal at Port Louis

Government had kickstarted this project with the construction of the Victoria Urban Terminal in Port Louis, where space had been reserved for 1,000 hawkers.

On 08 July 2022, the Prime Minister proceeded with the inauguration of the Victoria Urban Terminal (VUT), a first-of-its-kind multimodal complex, that has remodeled the landscape of the capital of Mauritius.

Immigration Square Urban Terminal

On 03 October 2018, a Notification of Award was issued to the successful promoter, namely, Yihai International Investment Management Ltd. In accordance with the

Notification of Award, the selected Promoter is required to provide mainly the following:

- ❖ a modern bus terminal with at least 20 bays for alighting and boarding passengers;
- ❖ a police station;
- ❖ a hawker's area to accommodate at least 800 vendor stalls;
- ❖ an overhead esplanade including green areas and kiosks;
- ❖ 3 Tusk Shops;
- ❖ a taxi stand to accommodate at least 20 taxis;
- ❖ adequate green areas;
- ❖ parking facilities for at least 700 vehicles;
- ❖ a business hotel with facilities for 100 beds; and
- ❖ office space for renting.

The Immigration Square Urban Terminal Project is a large-scale development project which falls within the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AGWHP). As per the Operational Guidelines of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, large scale development projects within and around the buffer zones of World Heritage Properties are subject to clearance from UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) prior to implementation. Following joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory Mission in May 2018 on projects in the Buffer Zone of the AGWHP including the Immigration Square Urban Terminal, it was recommended that an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) of all projects falling within the buffer zone be carried out. Accordingly, EcoAfrica Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was awarded a consultancy service by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage to conduct an Overarching HIA and VIA of the projects in the buffer zone of the AGWHP. The Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage is looking into the matter.

Urban Terminal Project at Quatre Bornes

As a major transport interchange at this most strategic part of the town centre, the Quatre Bornes Urban Terminal is expected to be an iconic building, accommodating a mixed-use development. This project would contribute to the revitalization of the town centre, enhance the town centre image and identity by introducing high standards of building design and improvements to the public realm, facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled thus enabling a more efficient use of state lands, seamless public transport facilities and highway infrastructure.

The RFP for Quatre Bornes was launched on 06th April 2023. The closing date was 31 October 2023.0

Urban Terminal Projects at Curepipe

As a major transport interchange at this strategic location, the Urban Terminal is expected to be an iconic building integrating a variety of travel modes and accommodating a mixed-use development including a market/fair.

The RFP for Curepipe was under review.

Urban Terminal Projects at Rose Hill

As a major transport interchange at this most strategic part of the town, the Urban Terminal is expected to be iconic, encompassing a mixed-use development, act as a focal point for the Municipal area of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and reinstate the identity and heart of the town centre. It is, therefore, expected that the Urban Terminal will help in the revitalization of the central area and shape the future development thereof.

The RFP for Rose Hill was under review.

Urban Terminal Projects at Vacoas

The Urban Terminal would act as major transport interchange at one of the most strategic locations of the Vacoas town centre. It is expected to be an iconic building accommodating a mixed-use development, including shops, food court, restaurants, offices, entertainment and leisure activities as

well as residential apartments and any other uses identified by the promoter on condition that such uses are compatible in a town centre. The Urban Terminal will, therefore reinvigorate commercial and leisure activities thereat and consequently, shape the future development of that locality. Activities should contribute to keep the urban terminal and the town centre vibrant during the town centre vibrant during the day, at night and weekends.

The RFP for Vacoas was launched on 13 February 2024. The proposal received was under evaluation.

9.0 Citizen Support Portal

The introduction of the Citizen's Support Portal at the level of the Local Authorities has prompted the setting up of a proper Complaints Handling Mechanism thereat. This allows the Councils to use the Citizen Support Unit as the main centralised and single database for complaints management. The main features of the current ticketing module implemented in the Citizen Support Unit are as follows:

- (a) categorisation of tickets;
- (b) custom reports; and
- (c) user management.

A dedicated unit at the Ministry has the responsibility to attend to complaints and queries received through the Citizen Support Portal. Training sessions were organised by the Citizen Support Unit of the Prime Minister's Office for the officers of the Ministry and the Local Authorities.

Statistics on the number of complaints processed during the period under review is as follows:

Complaints	2023-2024
Number of complaints received	23,755
Number of complaints attended/resolved	20,062
Number of complaints rejected	7
Number of outstanding complaints	3686