



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024



Introduction

In line with the requirement of the Finance and Audit Act which was amended in March 2015, the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance (MFSGG) has prepared its Annual Report on Performance for the financial year 2023/2024.

The Annual Report adheres to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and is aligned with the principles of performance-based budgeting. The MFSGG believes that transparency and accountability are essential for effective performance, and this report provides a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's work.

This report gives an overview of the Ministry's main roles/functions and evaluates its key actions, major projects, programmes and measures planned for the year. It also provides a Statement on the revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2023/2024.

The structure of the Annual Report is as follows:

Part I: About the Ministry

Part I provides an overview of the Ministry, including its vision, mission, roles, functions and a gender statement. It also details the responsibilities of the major agencies under its purview.

Part II: Ministry Achievements & Challenges

Part II highlights the Ministry's major achievements, the status of budget measures and key actions for the financial year 2023/2024, and an implementation plan for addressing the Director of Audit's comments/recommendations on the examination of accounts and records for financial years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

Part III: Financial Performance

Part III provides the Ministry's financial highlights for the year, including an overview of significant changes in the fiscal year 2023/2024 and detailed statements of revenue and expenditure.

Part IV: Way Forward

Part IV identifies the key trends, challenges and strategic directions for the Ministry.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation
DoA	Director of Audit
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
IFC	International Financial Centre
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIAMLA	Financial Intelligence and Anti Money Laundering Act
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FRC	Financial Reporting Council
FSC	Financial Services Commission
FSI	Financial Services Institute Company Ltd
FSCC	Financial Services Consultative Council
ICC	Inter-Agency Committee
ICRG	International Co-operation Review Group
IO	Immediate Outcome
IRSA	Integrity Reporting Services Agency
MFSGG	Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance
ML/TF	Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing
MoFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
NCCG	National Committee on Corporate Governance
NIC	National Insurance Company Ltd
NICG	NIC General Insurance Co Ltd
NPFL	National Property Fund Limited
SEM	Stock Exchange of Mauritius
SICOM	State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd

Statement of the Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance



It is with great pride that I present the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024, a year that has witnessed both resilience and remarkable achievements for our Ministry. Despite the ever-evolving challenges in the global economic landscape, Mauritius continues to assert itself as a reputable and competitive International Financial Centre (IFC), driving innovation and good governance across all sectors of our economy.

One of the most notable accomplishments for this financial year has been Mauritius' impressive rise in the Global Financial Centres Index, moving from 68th spot in 2023 to 61st globally, and ranking 5th within the Africa & Middle East region. This is a clear reflection of our relentless efforts to enhance the competitiveness and global standing of the Mauritius IFC.

In implementing the 2018 Financial Services Blueprint, we have successfully implemented 71% of the targeted goals, with the implementation of 83% of tax and regulatory recommendations and 90% of the objectives to simplify procedures for financial institutions. These reforms underscore our commitment to position Mauritius as a premier IFC and as a jurisdiction of substance, driven by high standards and global best practices.

During this financial year, strong foundations have been laid for the burgeoning FinTech sector, with the development of a National Fintech Strategy in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Our ability to attract global technology leaders

like Zoho reinforces Mauritius as a hub for innovation and technology. Our promotional missions to major economies such as the USA, India, Japan, China and Hong Kong have further enhanced our role as a preferred gateway for investment into Africa, fostering stronger bilateral relations and investment flows.

Locally, regulatory improvements, including the streamlining of Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements have made the ease of doing business in Mauritius more efficient, while efforts have been geared towards addressing the sector's skills gap to ensure a dynamic and competitive workforce.

In addition, Mauritius has emerged as a leader in the fight against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation, supporting regional countries like Kenya and Angola. This transformation bears testimony to our commitment to safeguarding financial integrity and aligning with international standards.

Looking forward, our goals are clear, i.e. to continue enhancing governance, transparency, and competitiveness within our financial sector while promoting sustainable economic growth. With a robust framework and a dynamic workforce, Mauritius is well-positioned to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff of the Ministry and our valued stakeholders for their continued support and hard work. Together, we will ensure that Mauritius remains at the forefront of global financial services and governance.

Hon. Soomilduth Bholah
Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance

1.1 Vision and Mission

Established in December 2014, the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance aims to revitalise the financial services sector and position Mauritius as a competitive and reputable International Financial Centre, anchored on principles of good governance and best practices. This Ministry also ensures coordination for the sustainability and effectiveness of the country’s efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing which contribute to strengthen our AML/CFT regime, thereby reinforcing our financial system which is one of the resilient pillars of the Mauritian economy.

The Ministry also provides guidance and support for the enforcement of good governance practices in order to further imbibe the national values of good governance in Mauritius.

Training and sensitisation programmes to foster a culture of good governance are also undertaken by the Ministry.

Vision

Our vision is to make Mauritius a clean and transparent jurisdiction of substance and repute offering high standard financial services at the national, regional and international level.

Mission

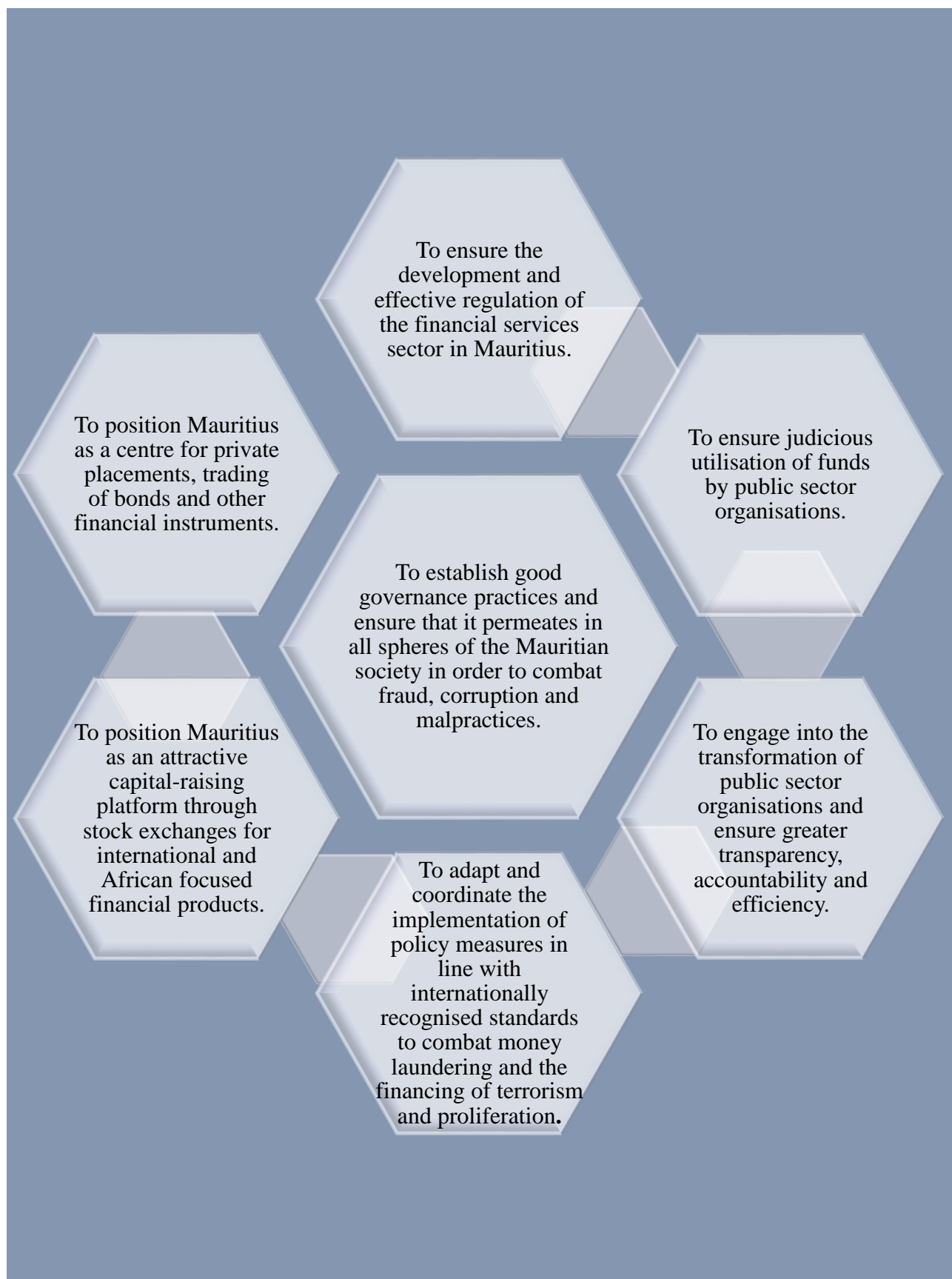
To reinforce the position of Mauritius as a competitive and reputable International Financial Centre anchored on principles of Good Governance, a robust Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Framework and global best practices.

Values

Good public governance needs excellent leadership, management and human resources. The Ministry encourages public officers to exercise good governance as well as uphold and safeguard the following values in exercising public duty:

<i>Fairness</i>	<i>We promote an inclusive and fair workplace which fosters respect of all our fellow employees.</i>
<i>Transparency</i>	<i>We ensure transparency and disclosure of our activities.</i>
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>We have an unimpaired character demonstrated by a well-ordered private and public life devoid of moral or material corruptibility.</i>
<i>Impartiality</i>	<i>We have an ethical standard that requires neutrality, objectivity and equality of opportunity in accessing public resources and services.</i>
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>We deliver our very best in all we do, holding ourselves accountable for results.</i>

1.2 Objectives



1.3 Key Legislations

- Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024;
- Asset Recovery Act 2011;
- Captive Insurance Act 2015;
- Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2002;
- Financial Reporting Act 2004;
- Financial Services Act 2007;
- Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015;
- Insurance Act 2005;
- Ombudsperson for Financial Services Act 2018;
- Securities Act 2015;
- Variable Capital Companies Act 2022; and
- Virtual Asset and Initial Token Offerings Services Act 2021.



1.4 Institutions under aegis of Ministry

The following Institutions/Organisations operate under the aegis of the Ministry:

1.4.1 Statutory Bodies & Committees

➤ **Financial Services Commission (FSC)**

The FSC is the Regulator for the non-banking Financial Services sector and the Global Business sector in Mauritius. Established in 2001 under the Financial Services Act, the FSC has the mandate to license, regulate, monitor and supervise the conduct of business activities in these sectors.

In carrying out its mission, the FSC aims to:

- (a) promote the development, fairness, efficiency and transparency of financial institutions and capital markets in Mauritius;
- (b) suppress crime and malpractices so as to provide protection to members of the public investing in non-banking financial products; and
- (c) ensure the soundness and stability of the financial system in Mauritius.

➤ **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)**

The FIU was established under section 9 of the Financial Intelligence and Anti Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA) in August 2002. It is the central Mauritian agency for the request, receipt, analysis and dissemination of financial information regarding suspected proceeds of crime and alleged money laundering offences as well as the financing of any activities or transactions related to terrorism to relevant authorities.

The FIU is mandated to fulfil the following core functions:

- (a) the classic intelligence agency functions pursuant to section 10 of the FIAMLA, performed by the Financial Investigative Analysis Division (**FIAD**) of the FIU;
- (b) the Asset Recovery function, pursuant to the Asset Recovery Act performed by the Asset Recovery Investigations Division (**ARID**); and
- (c) the AML/CFT supervisor function for designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), namely, real estate agents including land promoters and property developers, dealers in precious metals and stones as well as the legal professionals (law firms, notaries, barristers and attorneys), fulfilled by the **FIU Compliance Division**.

As part of its risk based supervisory role, during the financial year 2023/2024, the FIU has conducted regular outreach activities in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee (ICC), registered reporting persons on GoAML, carried out risk-based AML/CFT supervision via a combination of onsite, and offsite inspections and also took effective, proportionate and dissuasive enforcement actions with the aim of ensuring compliance across the supervised sectors.

➤ **Insurance Industry Compensation Fund (IICF)**

The IICF was established as a statutory body pursuant to section 88 of the Insurance Act 2005. The purpose of this institution is to compensate persons suffering from personal injury in road traffic accidents (or their heirs in case of death) where the tortfeasor or one of the vehicles which caused the injury is untraceable. The amount of compensation to be paid to the victims or the heirs is prescribed in the Insurance (Industry Compensation Fund) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

➤ **Integrity Reporting Services Agency (IRSA)**

The IRSA was a body corporate established under the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015 to promote transparency, good governance and integrity in Mauritius. Agencies, body corporates and statutory corporations in Mauritius had the duty to report suspicions of unexplained wealth to IRSA and assist it in its enquiries. Following the proclamation of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) Act in March 2023, the IRSA has integrated the FCC.

➤ **Financial Reporting Council (FRC)**

The FRC was established in 2005 under the Financial Reporting Act 2004. The objects of the Council are to promote the provision of high quality reporting of financial and non-financial information by Public Interest Entities (PIEs), promote the highest standards among licensed auditors, enhance the credibility of corporate reporting, and improve the quality of accountancy and audit services.

➤ **National Committee on Corporate Governance (NCCG)**

The Financial Reporting Act (FRA) 2004 was amended through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 to establish the National Committee on Corporate Governance as a ‘body corporate’. One of the objectives of the NCCG is to promote the organisation of workshops, seminars and training in the field of corporate governance. The NCCG collaborates with the Financial Services Institute on training and organising events. Furthermore, members of the NCCG regularly intervene as guest speakers for FSI training on the Code.

1.4.2 Department

➤ **Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG)**

The OPSG is operating under the aegis of the Ministry since November 2019. The OPSG is the technical arm for good governance and is responsible for the provision of services related to good governance practices, management consultancy, financial and organisational reviews in public sector organisations comprising Ministries/Departments, State-Owned Enterprises and Local Authorities. The OPSG is also responsible for the establishment and monitoring of Audit Committees in Ministries and Departments.

1.4.3 State-Owned Companies

➤ **State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM)**

The SICOM stands proudly today as one of the leading Insurance and Financial Services companies in Mauritius. With an established presence in the economic landscape of Mauritius since 1975, the SICOM Group presently includes the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd, SICOM General Insurance Ltd, SICOM Financial Services Ltd, SICOM Global Fund Ltd, SICOM Management Ltd and SICOM Properties Ltd. Since its creation, SICOM has been dynamic and has continuously expanded its range of activities to increase the value and profitability of the Company. Over the years, SICOM branched from General & Life Insurances, Individual and Group Pension Businesses, different Loan Schemes, Education Schemes and Medical Schemes, into other financial services. It also operates in Deposit Taking, Unit Trust Management, Leasing, Trustee, Actuarial Consultancy Services and Global Business. Recently Investment Advisory services as well as Property Management and Development services have also been added to its portfolio of services.

➤ **National Insurance Company Ltd (NIC) & NIC General Insurance Co Ltd (NICG)**

The NICL and NICG were set up by the Government of Mauritius and licensed by the Financial Services Commission of Mauritius in 2015 to take over the former British American Insurance (BAI) and to undertake long term and general insurance businesses. Pursuant to section 110B of the Insurance Act 2005, part of the undertakings of BAI Co. (Mtius) Ltd were transferred to these entities, including its portfolio of policies, clients, workforce, distribution channels, systems, intellectual property and over 45 years of insurance capability and expertise in local and overseas markets.

While NICL offers a broad range of innovative life insurance products as well as pension and savings products to its customers, NICG offers a broad range of health, motor and other general insurance plans for individuals and corporates.

➤ **National Property Fund Ltd (NPFL)**

The NPFL was set up in May 2015 to recover the assets of the former British American Insurance Group and to repay policyholders of the Super Cash Back Gold fund and investors of the former Bramer Asset Management Ltd. So far, ten properties and one commercial slot have been disposed of.

➤ **Financial Services Institute Company Ltd (FSI)**

The FSI is an autonomous training institute set up by the Government of Mauritius with the aim to achieve national and regional recognition as a Centre of Excellence for Financial Services Education and Training. The Institute is open for education, training and development at a time when global forces are shaping lives and work, a time when demands of employers are getting increasingly complex, and a time when the demands of higher education are intensifying like never before. With a commitment to bridging the skills gap, the FSI has welcomed over 19,700 learners.

1.4.4 Private Owned Companies

➤ **Stock Exchange of Mauritius Ltd (SEM)**

The SEM was incorporated in 1989 as a private limited company responsible for the operation and promotion of an efficient and regulated securities market in Mauritius. It has earned a reputation as a world-class exchange in part due to its efforts in implementing forward-thinking projects in areas such as the introduction of multi-currency facilities, dual currency trading, the SEM Sustainability Index and the creation of the regulatory framework for the listing of various novel asset classes. SEM hosts a diverse range of listings totaling 180 securities, which includes 52 international securities, thus, contributing to the positioning of the Mauritius IFC as a prominent hub in Africa.

The total market capitalisation of the SEM stood at Rs 378.5 billion. SEM has been instrumental in democratizing access to capital markets, enabling a broad base of 100,000 investors, including Mauritian retail investors, to participate in success stories and wealth creation opportunities of companies that were previously privately held. These investors have, on average, benefited from annualized total return since listing of 13.8%. SEM has also contributed to the expansion of the Mauritian economy, by providing companies with a platform to raise capital to fund their growth prospects, with total of Rs 306 Billion raised since 2009.





1.5 Gender Statement

The Gender Policy of the Ministry was formulated with the enlistment of a Consultant and was validated in March 2018. The Gender Policy contains an Action Plan for gender mainstreaming at the level of the Ministry as follows:

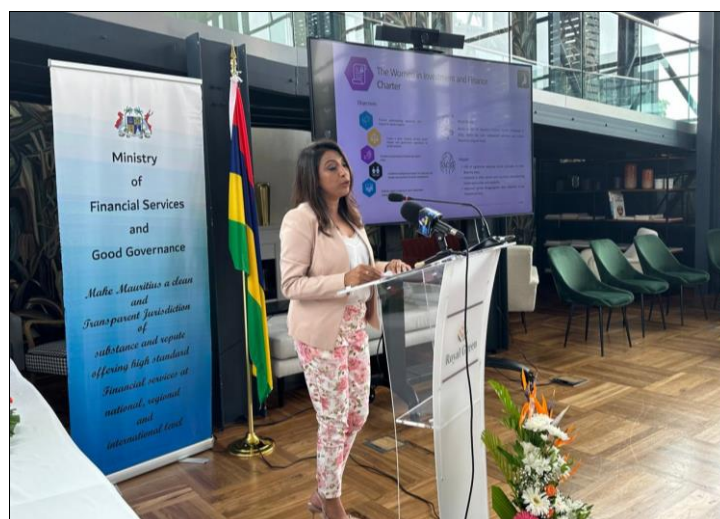
GOALS	ACTIVITIES
GOAL 1: <i>Supporting and Enabling Work Environment</i>	Network with Ministry of Gender Equality to facilitate advocacy for greater commitment and engagement among staff towards the promotion of gender equality.
	Advocate for financial resources to be available and the budget for the Ministry/Institution makes provision for gender mainstreaming programme.
	Celebrate days of significance, including International Women’s Day e.g. an in-house discussion for Gender Issues.
	Develop an advocacy campaign for the review of existing Mission, Vision and Strategic Directions of Ministry and stakeholders, and propose amendments to reflect gender sensitivity.
GOAL 2: <i>Promote Understanding of The Linkage</i>	Invite gender experts to discuss the tenets of the National Gender Policy Framework and the Gender Policy Statement, and advise on specific issues to be addressed.
	Organize an in-house discussion on gender and the role of men in the process of gender mainstreaming.
GOAL 3: <i>Promote Staff Capacity Building and Development</i>	Appoint a Gender Focal Point and set up a Gender Cell
	Develop an Action Plan for the Ministry
	Organise training sessions for staff and stakeholders
	Facilitate research and documentation on Gender and Governance/Financial Services
	Collect gender disaggregated data
GOAL 4: <i>Strengthen Women’s Leadership Role</i>	Discuss with management on the facilities provided to women to meet their practical gender needs.
	Provide facilities to women in vulnerable situations to reconcile productive and reproductive roles.
	Discuss with management to integrate women in decision making instances.
GOAL 5: <i>Set up an effective Monitoring and evaluation Mechanism</i>	Set up a Gender Coordinating Committee (GCC) to oversee implementation of Gender Policy
	Hold quarterly meeting of the GCC and monthly monitoring meetings of the Gender Cells
	Develop gender responsive Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and Indicators
	Review accountability mechanism
	Develop gender assessment tools to evaluate programme at all levels
	Discuss with Finance Department for the utilization of Gender Responsive Budgeting
	Discuss with Human Resource Department for the introduction of gender equity concerns in staff performance evaluation and measurement.

- As at 30 June 2024, the staff at the Ministry, excluding the officers on contract and on secondment, comprised **64 females** and **27 males**, i.e. a total of **91** staff members. The staffing structure, as at 30 June 2024, was as follows:

	TOTAL	 30%	 70%
Top Management Salary ≥ Rs 110k	4	(25%) 1	(75%) 3
Middle Management Rs 47k < Salary < Rs 110k	23	(44%) 10	(56%) 13
Support & Others Salary ≤ Rs 47k	64	(25%) 16	(75%) 48

- The Ministry has sponsored the setting up of the Association of Women in Investment and Finance which was launched on 08 March 2022. The objective of the Association is to give a voice to women in the sector and also help them to break the glass ceiling.

On 24 April 2024, the Gender Cell of the Ministry, in collaboration with the Association of Women in Investment and Finance, organised a Workshop around the theme “*The role of Women in the new era of the Mauritius International Financial Centre*”. This workshop was ground breaking as it laid the first stones for a collaboration between the Ministry and the “*Journee de la Femme Digitale*” in France.



Mrs Y. Jankee-Chukoory, President of the Association of Women in Investment and Finance, addressing the audience

During the Workshop, six operators signed the Charter of the Association of Women in Finance and Investment. The Charter is a pledge showing the commitment of the Company to promote women in their organisation and also ensure that there is a proper monitoring of their achievements. Furthermore, a panel was organised whereby the challenges and opportunities for women in building the Mauritius IFC was discussed.



1.6 About our People

1.6.1 Staff on Pensionable and Permanent Establishment

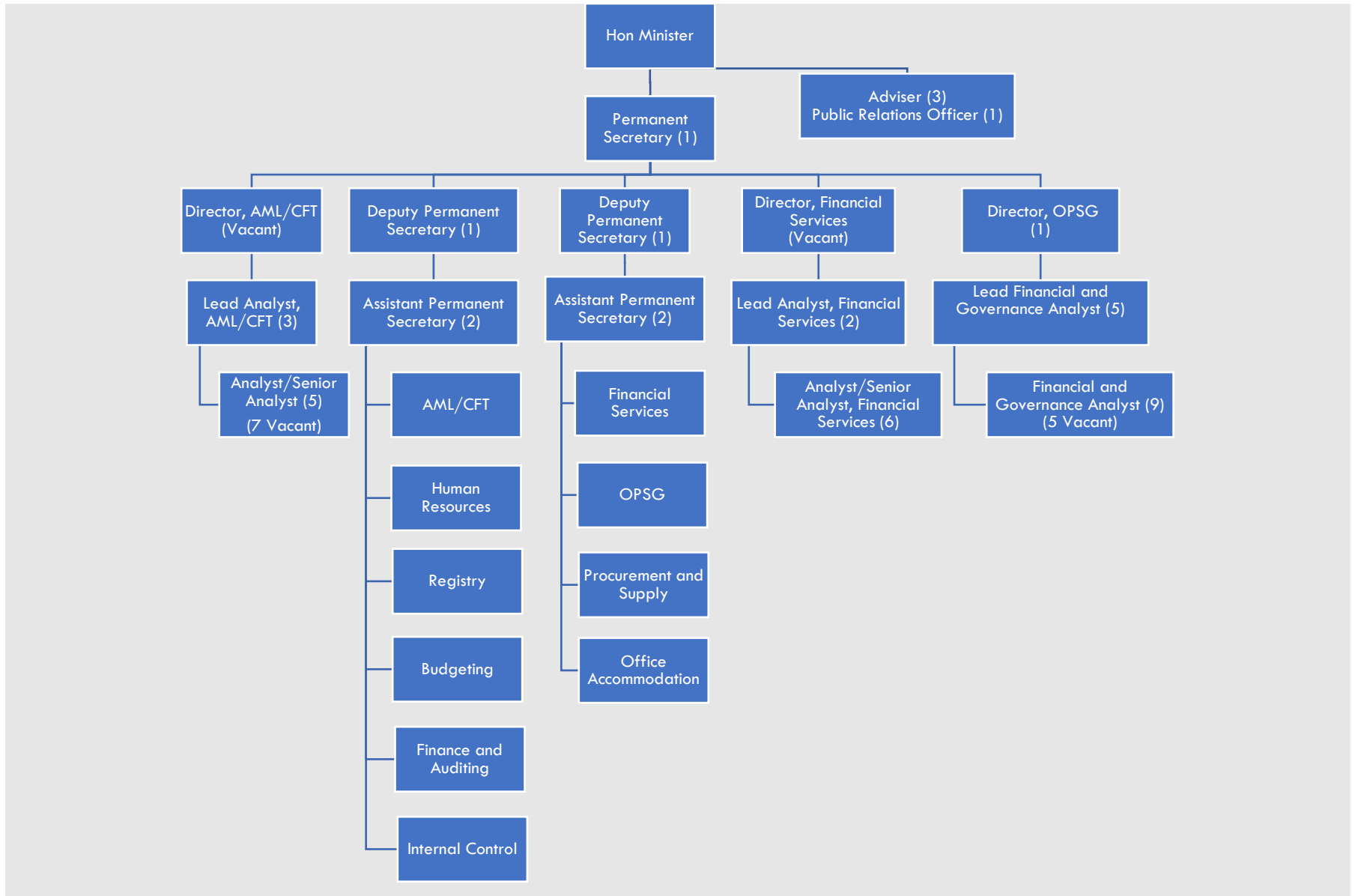
The Ministry is headed by the Permanent Secretary, who is supported by a pool of officers.

GRADE	FUNDED POSITION	NUMBER IN POST
Permanent Secretary	1	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	2	2
Assistant Permanent Secretary	4	4
Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Financial Operations Officer/Senior Financial Operations Officer	1	-
Assistant Financial Operations Officer	1	1
Principal Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1
Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1
Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1
Assistant Manager, Internal Control	1	1
Manager Human Resources	1	1
Senior Human Resource Executive	1	1
Office Management Executive	1	1
Office Management Assistant	6	6
Office Supervisor	1	1
Management Support Officer	14	18
Confidential Secretary	6	4
Assistant System Analyst/Senior Assistant System Analyst	-	1
Word Processing Operator	3	2
Head Office Auxiliary	1	1
Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	8	9
Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1	-
Driver	2	4
Director, AML/CFT	1	-
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	5	4
Analyst/Senior Analyst, AML/CFT	17	10
Director, Financial Services	1	-
Lead Analyst, Financial Services	2	2
Analyst/Senior Analyst, Financial Services	6	6
Director, Office of Public Sector Governance	1	1
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	5	5
Financial and Governance Analyst/Senior Financial and Governance Analyst	14	9

1.6.2 Senior Staff of the Ministry

GRADE	NAME
A. ADMINISTRATION	
Permanent Secretary	Mr Sarwansingh PURMESSUR (<i>up to 22.04.24</i>) Mrs Phoolranee RAMPADARATH (<i>as from 23.04.24</i>)
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs Ushalini SHEWRAJ
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs Bibi Rouda MOHIDEEN
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr Girshan JHEELAN
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs Narvada PULTOO
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr Neelesh BEEROO
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr Senvy CURPEN-NAICK (<i>up to 24.06.24</i>)
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs Pooja ROOPNARAIN
Manager, Human Resources	Mrs Bibi Zaheda SOREEFAN
Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs Mattee GUNGAH
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs Jhotee RAMPERSAD
Assistant Manager, Internal Control	Mr Mohunchun Deelad NUNDOO
B. AML/CFT UNIT	
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Mrs Marie Laura Kareen LAROCHE
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Mr Avinash DREEMPAUL (<i>up to 20.06.24</i>)
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Mr Yuvrajsingh BETCHOO
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Mr Thivy MOOTYEN
Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Mrs Thavisha Naginlal Modi RAMGOOLAM
C. FINANCIAL SERVICES UNIT	
Director, Financial Services	Mr Kresh SEEBUNDHUN (<i>up to 05.04.24</i>)
Lead Analyst, Financial Services	Mrs Dovinassy Gengathora PILLAY-NAIKEN
Lead Analyst, Financial Services	Miss Khema Deepti BEESOON
D. OFFICE OF PUBLIC SECTOR GOVERNANCE	
Director	Mr Satianand BANSHI
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	Mr Edison NARAINEN
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	Ms Padminee SUNASSEE
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	Mrs Shameema Bibi PATEL
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	Mrs Bibi Sehnaz NUNHUCK
Lead Financial and Governance Analyst	Mr Mohammad Riad Shamimuddin FUZURALLY

ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF THE MINISTRY AS AT 30 JUNE 2024



1.6.3 Officers on Contract

As at 30 June 2024, the Ministry also comprised officers who were employed on contract or were on secondment, as provided hereunder:

GRADE	NUMBER IN POST
Adviser on Information Matters	1
Public Relations Officer	1
Senior Adviser	1
Adviser	1

1.6.4. Officers on Secondment

GRADE	NUMBER IN POST	REMARKS
Senior Analyst	1	On secondment from Financial Services Commission
Driver	1	On secondment from Financial Reporting Council

2.1 Major Achievements and Budget Measures

Mauritius is today recognised as an International Financial Centre (IFC) of substance and repute with a vibrant ecosystem consisting of international banks, audit firms and law firms. Several economic partnership agreements have been signed with key countries like India, China and Africa for increased collaboration in the financial sector.

2.1.1 Overview of the Financial Services Sector

FINANCIAL & INSURANCE ACTIVITIES					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Growth rate (%)	4.0	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.3
Contribution to GDP (%)	14.1	13.9	13.5	13.5	14.0

2.1.1.1 Rankings and Accolades

The Mauritius IFC has improved its ranking by 7 places in the 34th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index, moving from 68th spot in 2023 to 61st place in 2024. Mauritius is ranked at the 5th place in the Africa & Middle East region.

The Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) is the world’s most comprehensive research on start-ups, with data from over 3.5 million companies across 290+ entrepreneurial innovation ecosystems. The report provides compelling new insights and deep knowledge about startup trends including the impact of inflation, AI regulation, talent attraction, trends in global VC funding, and sub-sector analyses. It has been reported in the GSER 2023 that among the world’s top 100, two African countries showed the steepest positive momentum, namely, Mauritius and Senegal, jumping 10 spots to 61st and 82nd, respectively. With a major leap, Mauritius became the second highest ranked African country.

2.1.1.2 Implementation of Blueprint (2018)

The Blueprint Report on Innovating and Transforming the Mauritius IFC of 2030, which was issued in 2018, highlights the strategies to establish Mauritius as an International Financial Centre and a jurisdiction of substance and repute, focused on its contribution to the economic growth within a growing international pressure. 71% of recommendations in the Blueprint have been implemented.

Five Sub-committees were set up under the Financial Services Consultative Council (FSCC) to review the recommendations under the 5 imperatives and assess the relevance of the initial recommendations. Accordingly, each Expert Group has reviewed their Imperatives as follows:

Imperative	Objective	Percentage (%) of completion
1	Future - Proof Mauritius regulatory and tax regimes	83%
2	Create quick, simple, user-friendly processes to serve financial institutions	90%
3	Build the image of Mauritius as a world class specialist IFC underpinned by deep institutional and G2G relationships	57%
4	Attract, develop and retain world class global talent	83%
5	Attract more high calibre corporates and financial institutions to create depth and more breadth in the MIFC	53%
	TOTAL	71%

2.1.1.3 Financial Services Consultative Council

The Financial Services Consultative Council met on 16 May 2024 under the chairpersonship of the Honourable Minister. One of the main decisions taken at the meeting was the setting up of a subcommittee under Imperative 1 to look into tax matters of the non-banking financial services sector, and to collect and analyze data for the sector as a key performance indicator, so as to gauge the actual contribution of the sector to our national economy and the progress achieved since the implementation of recommendations of the Blueprint issued in 2018.



Hon. S. Bholah chairing the Financial Services Consultative Council



Members participating in the Financial Services Consultative Council

2.1.1.4 Improving the Ease of Doing Business

The Ministry has, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (MFARIIT) and with the assistance of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, organised a sensitisation workshop with the aim to inform stakeholders in the financial services sector of the business opportunities arising from the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services (Financial Services).

The International Trade Division of the MFARITT has entered into negotiations with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to discuss on the Protocol of Digital Trade. So far, there have been 2 rounds of negotiations, the first one in June 2024 and the second one in August 2024. The Ministry led the discussion with regard to Financial Technology.

2.1.1.5 Addressing the Skills Gap in the Financial Services Sector

Several actions were initiated to address the skills gap in the financial services sector: -

- The existing minimum basic salary requirement for ‘Residency by Professional’ Scheme has been revised to MUR 30,000 and would be opened to all sector of activities in Mauritius. The existing restrictions to Fund Administration and Compliance Services have been removed.
- For the Young Professional Occupation Permit, there will be no restriction for applicants to hold specific qualifications. Moreover, the business activities of potential employers would not be restrictive.

- The ratio of foreign/local workers shall apply to specific sectors only and shall exclude the financial services sector.
- The Financial Services Institute Ltd has continuously trained people in the financial services sector to ensure upskilling and reskilling. They have initiated partnership with renowned Indian universities such as Bharat University in Chennai, IIM in Bangalore as well as Dundee University in Scotland.
- The Financial Services Institute is in the process of becoming an awarding body so that it is empowered to provide certified courses.

2.1.1.6 Promoting the Mauritius International Financial Centre

The following missions abroad were undertaken during the FY2023/2024: -

- (a) Promotional Mission to USA (Washington and New York) from 04 to 13 September 2023.
- (b) Promotional Mission to Japan from 19 to 23 November 2023, whereby 3 business fora were held in Osaka, Kobe and Tokyo.



The Mauritian Delegation and private sector operators at the Business Forum in Tokyo, Japan

- (c) Promotional mission to China (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hangzhou) and Hong Kong in January 2024.
- (d) Promotional Mission to India (New Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai) from 14 to 23 March 2024 to further consolidate Mauritius as a platform of choice for investments into Africa and facilitate the India-Africa corridor, whereby Mauritius serves as a remarkable bridge that unites India and Africa, creating a distinctive connection between these two countries.



The Mauritian Delegation and the Confederation of Indian Industry in Mumbai, India

- (e) Promotional Mission to India (Mumbai, Gujarat, Coimbatore and Chennai) from 05 to 10 August 2024 to reconnect with our regulatory stakeholders (SEBI, IFSCA and IRDAI) and to pursue the momentum which was created during the previous missions to India and to continue enhancing the visibility of Mauritius as a preferred International Financial Centre (IFC) for the Indian investors.



Hon. S. Bholah inaugurated the Supersonic Wind Tunnel at the Faculty of School of Aeronautical Engineering, Bharat Institute of Higher Education and Research in Chennai, India



Business Forum on Mauritius organised by the Consulate of Mauritius in Chennai and the Coimbatore District Small Industry Association in Coimbatore, India

2.1.1.7 Raising Awareness around the opportunities in the Mauritius IFC

The following activities were conducted locally to raise awareness around the opportunities in the Mauritius IFC

- (a) Africa Partnership Conference (02 and 03 October 2023);
- (b) 4th Africa Wealth Summit 2023 (04 and 05 October 2023);
- (c) Launching of a Framework governing the use of Digital Signature on 23 October 2023; and
- (d) India Africa Entrepreneurship & Investment Summit (18 and 19 July 2024).

2.1.1.8 Improving the Fintech Landscape

- The Ministry engaged with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for technical support for the development of a National Fintech Strategy and the proposed Fintech City.
- The Ministry participated in a Fintech Panel discussion on 09 May 2024, in the context of the AI Summit organised by METX.



Hon. S. Bholah delivering the keynote address at METX

- The Ministry organised a Fintech Consultative Workshop on 03 June 2024, whereby several stakeholders and regulators of the banking and non-banking sectors attended and provided their inputs on how to customise the National Fintech Strategy. There was also the signature of the Letter of Engagement between the Ministry and UNECA.
- Zoho, a global technology company, was successfully attracted to set up in Mauritius and partner with Mauritius Telecom in May 2024.

2.1.2 Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism

Mauritius has a robust legal and institutional framework to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation, positioning itself in the top-tier jurisdictions which are ‘Compliant’ or ‘Largely Compliant’ to all the 40 Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) Recommendations.

The Ministry remains committed to implementing comprehensive measures and pursuing initiatives to strengthen the fight against money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing.

The main achievements of Mauritius in the AML/CFT arena during the financial year 2023/2024 are as follows:

- (a) Moving from a recipient of technical assistance to a privileged partner in sharing Mauritius’s experience gained and lessons learned to tackle illicit financial flows. To this end, assistance was provided to Kenya, Angola and Mozambique;
- (b) Organisation of an In-Country Assessor's Training in collaboration with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Secretariat in May 2024 to equip the staff of different AML/CFT institutions with the necessary skills for the forthcoming mutual evaluation in 2027;
- (c) Active participation of officers from competent authorities in the following ESAAMLG Projects: -

- **International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) Project**

The project was co-chaired by Mauritius and its main objective is to support ESAAMLG member countries in addressing the relevant strategic deficiencies within the context of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)/ICRG Action Plan in the required timelines and ensure compliance with the FATF technical requirements and level of effectiveness in a more sustainable improvement of their AML/CFT/CPF systems.

- **Development of a toolkit for assessing ML and TF risks of legal entities**

The project was co-chaired by Mauritius and aimed at developing a toolkit that member countries could use to assess the money laundering and terrorism financing (ML/TF) risks posed by legal persons. The project was adopted by the ESAAMLG Task Force in September 2023.

➤ **A project on Regional TF Risk Assessment**

The project forms part of one of the priority areas of the ESAAMLG Regional CFT Operational Plan and Mauritius is a member of the project; and

➤ **Survey on the impact of Fintech products in the ESAAMLG Region**

The project aims at monitoring the fintech developments situation in the ESAAMLG region and Mauritius is a member of the project.

2.1.3 Public Sector Governance

The Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG), being the technical arm of the Ministry for good governance, provides consultancy services relating to good governance practices, management reviews, financial and organisational reviews in public sector organisations comprising Ministries/Departments, Parastatal Bodies, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Local Authorities.

The OPSG has completed the following **12** assignments in the Financial Year 2023/2024, including **4** reviews drawn from the Director of Audit (DoA) Report on the Accounts of the Financial Year 2020/2021 and **8** Reviews emanating from Direct Requests from Ministries/Departments: -

(a) Governance Reviews (3)

- (i) Review of the Oversight Mechanism on State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and other entities operating under the aegis of the MFSGG (DoA FY 2020/21);
- (ii) Governance Review at the Sugar Insurance Fund Board; and
- (iii) Financial Reporting and Governance Practices at SSR Foundation. (DoA FY 2020/21).

(b) Financial Reviews (2)

- (i) Audit Exercises at Labour Offices; and
- (ii) Financial Review at Central Water Authority (DoA FY 2020/21).

(c) Organisational Reviews (6)

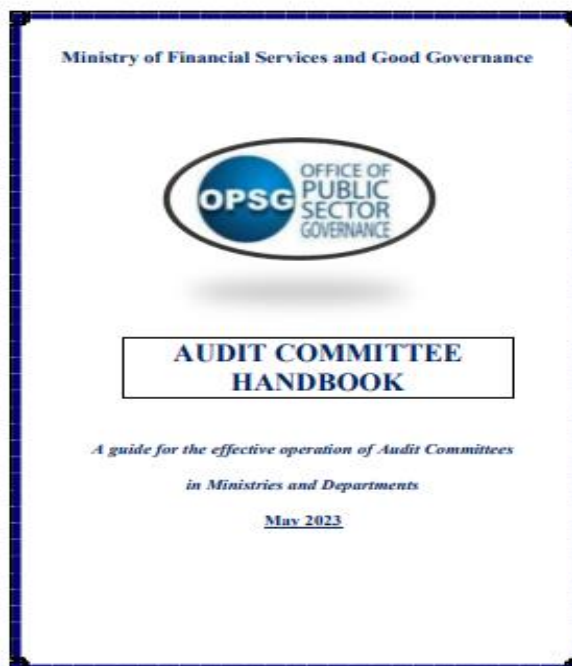
- (i) Organisational and Governance Review at the Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board;
- (ii) Performance Audit at Vallée d'Osterlog Endemic Garden;
- (iii) Review of Management Information System for Fire Risk Management at the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service (DoA FY 2020/21);
- (iv) Survey/Assessment at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute;
- (v) Reorganisation at the National Transport Corporation; and
- (vi) Review of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

(d) Special Enquiry (1)

Review of the Administrative and Technical Functions at Civil Status Division, Prime Ministers' Office

The OPSG has also the responsibility of reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of established Audit Committees (ACs) in Ministries and Departments. ACs play a crucial role in promoting good governance, overseeing compliance, addressing weaknesses identified by oversight bodies, facilitating confidential reporting, and reviewing risk management systems within Ministries and Departments. The monitoring of the operations of the ACs is an ongoing process and is carried out through quarterly reports submitted by the ACs.

A Handbook was prepared by the OPSG to provide guidance on the setting up and operation of Audit Committees and copies of the Handbook were circulated to Ministries and Departments in August 2023.



Audit Committee Handbook

The OPSG, in collaboration with the Civil Service College, Mauritius, conducted training sessions on 23 and 25 August 2023 on the theme “*Improving Public Sector Governance through Audit Committees*”. The areas covered were Roles and responsibilities of AC Chairperson, Members and Secretary, and Governance and Risk Management in Ministries and Departments. A total of 112 participants from middle management comprising administrative and technical cadre attended the training sessions.

Training was also provided by the OPSG to the Departmental Heads, AC members and Secretaries of the 7 Commissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in Rodrigues on 09 and 10 November 2023, respectively. A total of 31 participants attended the training sessions.



Training on Improving Public Sector Governance through Audit Committees



Training session in Rodrigues

2.1.4 National Committee on Corporate Governance

- Following a survey, the National Committee of Corporate Governance (NCCG) has elaborated a Diversity and Inclusion Charter to encourage a more balanced and gender inclusive business community. Some 20 corporates of the public and private sectors have already signed the Charter.
- The NCCG is also working on the review of the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius to align it with sustainability practices as well as the G20 principles and OECD Principles of Good Governance. The Code will lay the foundation for positioning Mauritius as a sustainable investment hub.

2.2 Status of Implementation of Budget Measures (FY 2023/2024)

Budget para	Budget Measure	Status Update
137(a)	Undertaking of a National Risk Assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing risks with the assistance of the World Bank.	The NRA Committee, which was set up in April 2024, met several times for the drafting of the Executive Summary and a concise NRA Booklet.
137(b)	Introduction of a new set of legislative amendments to reinforce the existing AML/CFT legal framework and a Whistleblowing Act to sustain the fight against corruption.	The AML/CFT (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill has been prepared for introduction into the National Assembly.
137(c)	Commission an independent assessment of the effectiveness of our AML/CFT system ahead of the ESAAMLG mutual evaluation in 2025.	An in-person workshop was held in June 2024 with the Consultant undertaking the Mid-Term Review. The Consultant provided general comments and technical insights on each IOs.
138(c)	Introduction of a Wealth Manager and Family Officer licence under Private Banking.	A Technical Committee has been set up to work on the wealth management framework.
B.17(a)	The FSC will issue guidelines to insurance companies to cater for retirees including foreign retirees and to ascertain that new risks are being properly reinsured and ring-fenced.	Guidelines for Health Insurance Business has been prepared.
46 (f)	Amendment will be made to the Private Pension Schemes Act to introduce micro pensions through the setting up of a private pension scheme targeting the informal sector.	Research work conducted in other jurisdictions which have implemented legal frameworks for micro pensions. Work in progress.

2.3 Status on Implementation of Key Actions

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Actual 2023/24
AML/CFT Unit	Formulate and implement AML/CFT/CPF policies and strategies	Implementation of the National Action Plan 2024/2027	-
	Provide capacity building on the FATF Assessment Methodology	Number of staff from competent authorities who participated in the FATF Assessors' Training	20
Financial Services Unit	Formulate policies and strategies to enhance competitiveness of the jurisdiction	(a) Implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Blueprint for Financial Services	71%
		(b) Number of innovative financial products introduced	2
Office of Public Sector Governance	Provide management consultancy services and conduct governance, financial and organisational reviews in public sector organisations	Number of reviews carried out in public sector organisations	11

2.4 Risk Management, Citizen-Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

2.4.1 Risk Management

In line with Circular Number 8 of 2021 issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MOFEPD) on the “*Guidelines for the establishment of Risk Management in the Public sector*”, the Ministry has, in collaboration with the Internal Control Unit, which falls under the purview of the MOFEPD, reviewed its Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework on 27 November 2023.

The Risk Management Policy confirms the Ministry’s commitment to identify, assess and manage risks which may prevent the achievement of strategic goals and objectives. The policy directs that the Ministry will integrate risk management into its culture, decision making processes, programs, practices, business planning and performance reporting activities.

2.4.2 Citizen Oriented Initiatives

Complaints and queries pertaining to the Ministry are handled in an effective and timely manner. Appropriate guidance and assistance are provided to the citizens through the Citizen’s Support Portal, as and when required. Furthermore, complaints of financial services nature are being dealt with by the Office of the Ombudsperson for Financial Services.

2.4.3 Good Governance

The National Audit Office has, in its Report for the financial year 2022/2023, proposed the development of a Code for Good Governance for Ministries and Government Departments which will improve trust and confidence in public administration.

The development of a Code of Governance for Ministries and Departments represents a significant opportunity to strengthen governance practices, promote accountability, and enhance the effectiveness of the public service. By establishing clear standards and guidelines, it shall be ensured that public servants act in accordance with the highest ethical and governance standards, thereby advancing the interests of the public and contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the Mauritian citizens.

In line with its objectives, the Ministry will champion development and implementation of Good Governance Practices in Ministries/ Departments. The OPSG will, thereafter, monitor and assess compliance with the Code with a view to fostering a culture of good governance in the public service.

2.5 Implementation Plan – Director of Audit Comments

In line with the Government decision that Ministries/Departments should set up an Audit Committee (AC) with a view to minimising the number of audit queries, an AC has been set up at the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance since 2017.

The composition of the Committee during the Financial Year 2023 – 2024 was as follows:

Name	Designation	Role in Audit Committee
Mrs U. Shewraj	Deputy Permanent Secretary	Chairperson
Mr A. Dreepaul	Lead Analyst, AML/CFT	Member
Mrs S. Curpen-Naïck	Assistant Permanent Secretary	Member
Mrs N. Mattarooa	Office Management Assistant	Secretary

The shortcomings noted in the Reports of the Director of Audit for the FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022/2023 were discussed at the level of the Committee and a close follow up was carried out on the issues reported, for instance, the ones in the following table:

SN	Issues (Report Ref)	DOA Comments/Proposed Measures	Status of Actions taken/ Implementation Date
(A)	Report of the Director of Audit for FY 2021-2022 (released in February 2023)		
1	Appointment and Independence of Audit Committee Members (Para 3.13 of Report 2019)	The AC Charter did not explicitly mention the range of skills and expertise that AC members should collectively possess. Independence of the ACs need to be enhanced. A database of individuals willing to serve as AC members should be established and maintained.	A list of personal attributes, skills and expertise of members of an AC have been included in the new AC Charter. The matter is being looked into.
2	Training for Audit Committee Members (Para 3.14 of Report 2019)	Ministries/Departments should provide AC members with training.	An AC handbook has been developed and issued to AC members of all Ministries and relevant departments. Training sessions for AC members were held in August and November 2023.
3	Responsibilities on Governance Areas (Para 3.15 of Report 2019)	Governance structure should be included in the Charter and oversight on same appropriately defined.	Elements such as governance structure as well as values and conflict of interest have been included in the new AC Charter.
4	Audit Committee Activities (Para 3.16 of Report 2019)	To be fully operational and effective, the ACs need to fulfil all the roles and responsibilities described in the Charter.	Ministry/Departments have already started applying the provisions contained in the new Charter. Training sessions were conducted in August and November 2023 to guide AC Chairpersons, Members and Secretaries on their roles and responsibilities.
5	Evaluation of Performance of Audit Committees (Para 3.17 of Report 2019)	AC's performance needs to be properly assessed.	The new charter provides for an overall assessment of the AC. The OPSG has defined new assessment criteria, which have been approved by the Accounting Officer on 24 October 2023. The new criteria are being used for the assessment of ACs.
6	Inadequate Oversight of the Ministry on the SOE under its aegis – Assets Disposal	As at 30 August 2022, the NPFL has disposed 5 out of the 18 remaining assets.	As at 30 June 2024, NPFL has disposed 11 out of the 18 remaining assets.

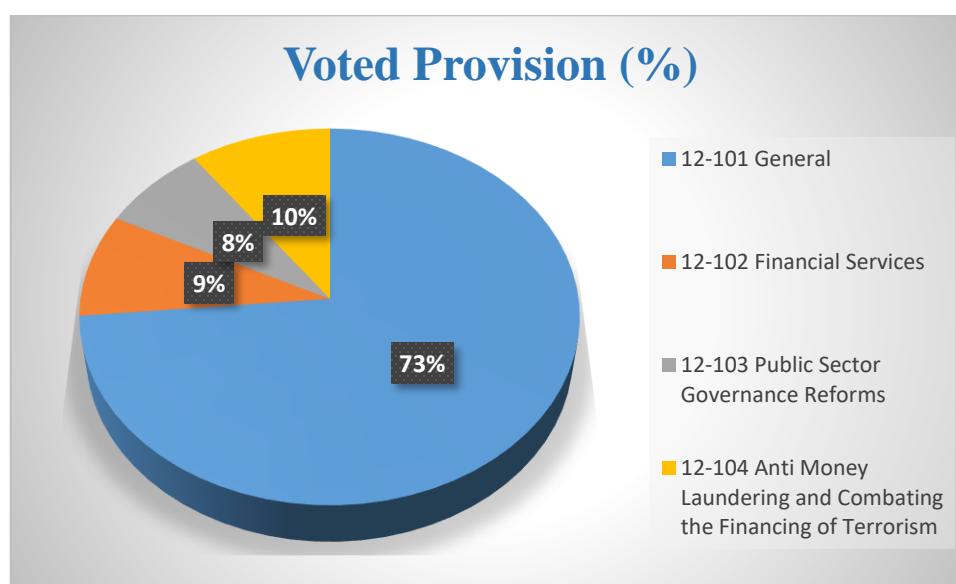
SN	Issues (Report Ref)	DOA Comments/Proposed Measures	Status of Actions taken/ Implementation Date
(B)	Report of the Director of Audit for FY 2022-2023 (released in February 2024)		
1	Adequacy of Key Performance Indicators for the Office of Public Sector Governance (Para 14.1 of Report 2022/23)	The Ministry should review and formulate KPIs for OPSG that reflect its main services to better monitor and assess its performance.	Although 3 KPIs were proposed for OPSG to reflect its main services, only the KPI on number of reviews was retained.
2	Implementation of Risk Management Framework (Para 14.2 of Report 2022/23)	The Accounting Officer, through OPSG, should ensure that all Ministries and Government Departments comply with the circular on the “ <i>Guidelines for the establishment of Risk Management in the Public sector</i> ” and effectively implement the RMF.	In the Annex to the Budget Speech 2024-2025, it is stated that the manual on Risk Management and Auditing and Oversight will provide for the procedures for the establishment of a Risk Management Framework in Ministries and Departments and set out the overall Governance Structures for auditing and oversight. The OPSG will assist in this exercise which will be driven by the MOFEPD.
3	No Standard Operating Procedure Manual (SOPM) for the Ministry (Para 14.3 of Report 2022/23)	The Accounting Officer should initiate action to ensure the preparation of an SOPM for the Ministry, outlining the policies, procedures, systems, and mechanisms in place.	The preparation of the SOPMs for the AML/CFT Unit and the Financial Services Unit are ongoing.
4	Independence of Audit Committees (Para 14.4 of Report 2022/23)	The Ministry should follow up on matters relating to the independence of Audit Committees with higher authorities.	The Ministry is following up on the matter.
5	Monitoring and Evaluation of Audit Committees (Para 14.4.1 of Report 2022/23)	The Accounting Officer should include a clause on the deadline for the submission of documents by Audit Committees in the performance agreement.	A Circular Letter has been issued in April 2024 for the integration of an Addendum in the existing Performance Agreement. Subsequently, an amended Performance Agreement has been circulated for use by ACs.

3.1 Financial Highlights

An amount of Rs 362 million was appropriated to the Ministry’s Vote for the Financial Year 2023/2024. The Ministry’s Budget was categorised under 4 sub-Heads for the allocation of funds as follows:-

Sub-Head	Details	Voted Provision (Rs)
12-101	General	266,3M
12-102	Financial Services	32,0M
12-103	Public Sector Governance Reforms	27,6M
12-104	Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism	36,1M

The budget of Rs 362 Million allocated to the Ministry for the Financial Year 2023/2024 is represented in the diagram below:



3.2 Analysis of Major Changes

For Financial Year 2022/2023, the Ministry was allocated a budget of Rs 312 Million as compared to Rs 362 Million for Financial Year 2023/2024, representing a 16.02% increase.

(i) Compensation of Employees

Funds allocated were insufficient to meet payment of allowances, salary compensation, overtime, maintenance of vehicles, furniture, cleaning of office premises, printing and stationery, contribution to ESAAMLG and acquisition of vehicles. Additional funds had to be reallocated from savings of other items of expenditure from the Ministry’s other sub-heads. Moreover, some funded posts as at

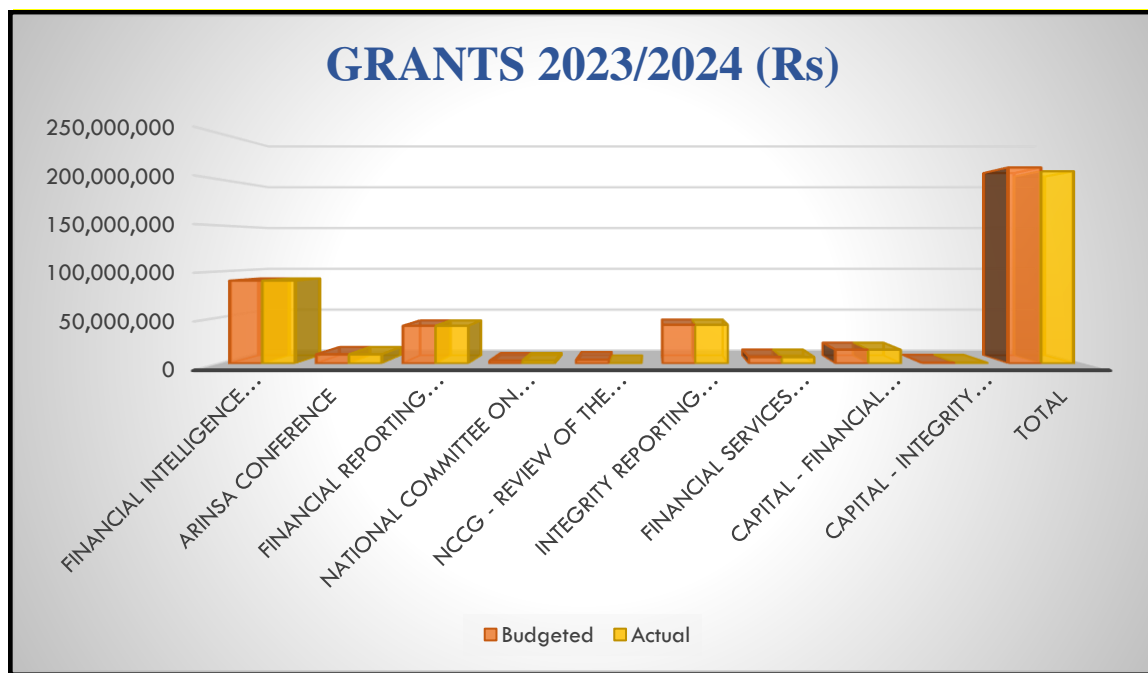
30 June 2024 have not yet been filled namely: Director of the AML/CFT, Director Financial Services, Financial and Governance Analysts/Senior Financial and Governance Analysts, Analysts/Senior Analysts AML/CFT and Lead Analysts AML/CFT.

(ii) Goods and Services

Savings of approximately Rs2.0 M could be generated under Expenses in connection with Fintech City, which were partly reallocated for the purchase of one additional vehicle for the Ministry, and Expenses in respect of Fees to Consultants - Consultancy Services for Development of ESG framework were also not effected. For the Financial Year 2023/2024, two main events were organised by the Ministry, namely, the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop in April 2024 and the In-Country Assessors Training in May 2024.

(iii) Grants

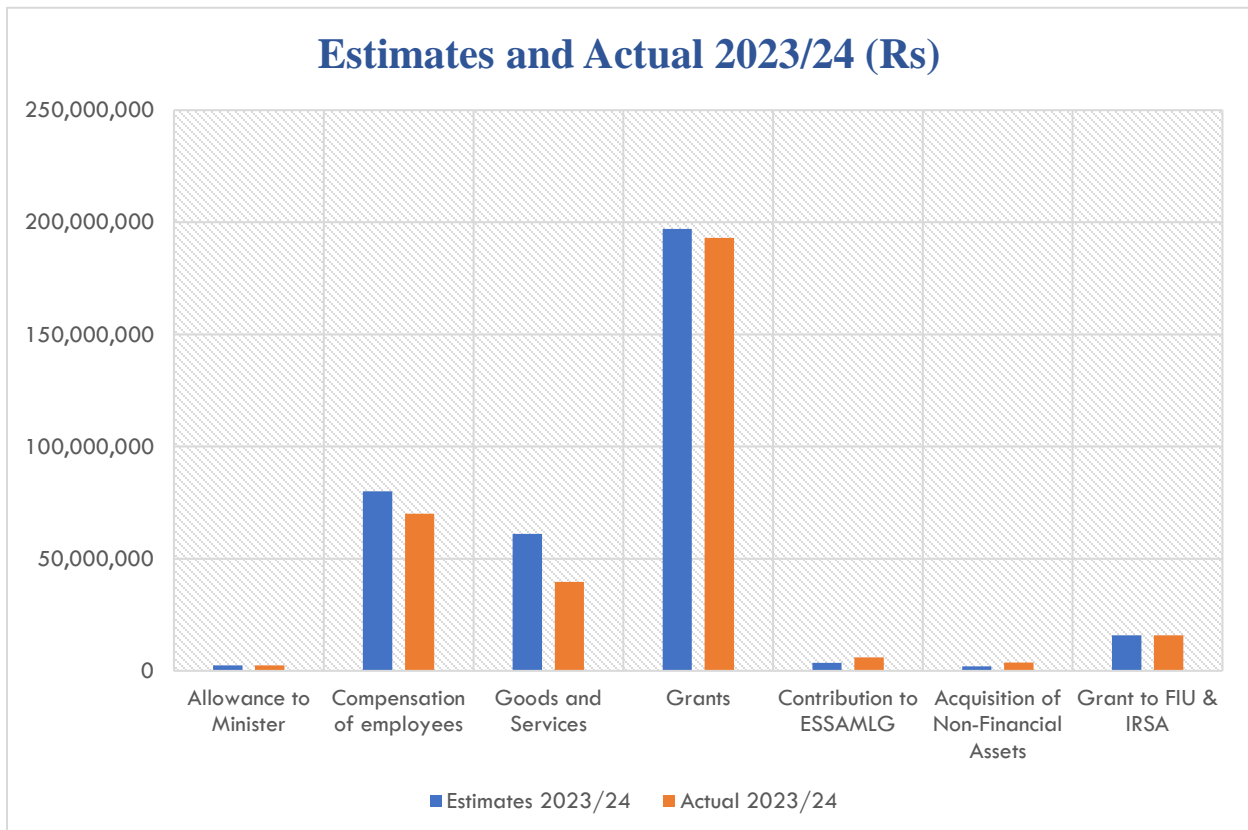
An amount of Rs212,9M under Recurrent and Capital Expenditure was allocated to Extra Budgetary Units falling under the aegis of the Ministry and the total amount released in respect of Grants was Rs 208,8M for Financial Year 2023/2024. As for Contribution to International Organisations – ESAAMLG, an amount of Rs3,6M was allocated in the budget but due to an increase of the annual subscription fee, an amount of Rs6,028,293 was settled through reallocation of funds from other items of expenditure where savings were forecasted.



3.3 Statement of Expenditure

The actual expenditure at the end of Financial Year 2023/2024 was Rs 330,657,150, representing 91.34% of the voted provision of Rs 362 million.

Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure	Estimates 2023/2024 (Rs)	Actual 2023/2024 (Rs)
Recurrent Expenditure		
Allowance to Minister	2,400,000	2,400,000
Compensation of employees	80,000,000	70,081,034
Goods and Services	61,100,000	39,611,073
Grants	197,100,000	193,000,000
Contribution to ESSAMLG	3,600,000	6,028,293
Capital Expenditure		
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	2,000,000	3,736,750
Grant to FIU & IRSA	15,800,000	15,800,000
Total	362,000,000	330,657,150



4.1 Trends and Challenges

4.1.1 Trends

Mauritius is positioning itself as the ideal platform for investment into Africa. Mauritius will leverage on being a member of the AfCFTA to route impactful investment into mainland Africa.

Several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed to foster bilateral cooperation to promote the development and regulation of financial products, services and institutions. Mauritius is in the process of negotiating various bilateral agreements covering, *inter-alia*, the financial services sector with countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Bangladesh, China, Rwanda and Nepal.

The ongoing/forthcoming AML/CFT initiatives to enhance our compliance with international standards include:

- Undertaking a mid-term independent assessment to evaluate the technical compliance and effectiveness of Mauritius's AML/CFT/CPF Framework with respect to the revised FATF Methodology. This proactive review aims at identifying deficiencies and implementing corrective measures ahead of the next Mutual Evaluation exercise in 2027.
- Conducting ongoing Risk Assessments to better identify and understand ML/TF/PF Risks associated with different sectors, including the review of ML/TF Risk related to Virtual Assets/Virtual Asset Service Providers, Terrorism Financing risks linked to Non-Profit Organizations, and the first Proliferation Financing (PF) Risk Assessment; and

4.1.2 Key challenges

The financial services sector faces several challenges, including the following:-

- Greater competition from existing and new International Financial Centres (IFC).
- Ensuring a seamless access to a pool of skilled manpower to help sustain the growth of the financial services sector.
- Attracting start-ups as well as developing innovative products and services in the field of FinTech and sustainable Finance and Investment.
- Aligning with the evolving changes in the FATF standards as well as keeping abreast with emerging Money Laundering/Terrorism Financing/Proliferation Financing risks.
- Ensuring the continuous application of good governance practices in the public sector.
- Including the enhancement of the independence and effectiveness of Audit Committees.

4.2 Strategic Direction

- ✚ The Ministry's actions and initiatives have positioned Mauritius as a global player in the fight against financial crimes and as an international financial centre of repute. Looking forward, the Ministry's ongoing and forthcoming initiatives showcase a steadfast commitment to continuous improvement and resilience.
- ✚ The comprehensive risk assessment exercises, the AML/CFT (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act and the Mid-Term Review will ensure that Mauritius remains vigilant against emerging risks. Moreover, the FATF Standards/Assessors Training will empower the AML/CFT institutions with the necessary skills and knowledge for the upcoming mutual evaluations.
- ✚ The Ministry will sustain and enhance the AML/CFT/CPF reforms to deal with evolving risks and latest international standards. A Centralized Information Management System for AML/CFT/CPF will be implemented at the national level to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our regime under the eleven FATF Immediate Outcomes (IOs).
- ✚ A National FinTech Strategy will be developed and access to capital for FinTech start-ups will be improved.
- ✚ Efforts will also be geared towards promoting Good Governance Practices throughout the public service by undertaking governance reviews in public sector bodies to improve governance practices, accountability and transparency.





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