**Annex V**

**DETAILS OF AWARENESS RAISING INITIATIVES**

The Disability Empowerment Unit of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, as well as NGOs and organisations for persons with disabilities conduct workshops and talks on the rights of persons with disabilities with much emphasis on the slogan “valuing people with disabilities” on an ongoing basis. The resource persons called upon to deliver talks and share success stories are often persons with disabilities. Last year, 15 talks were conducted to promote the rights of persons with disabilities over the island. These talks and awareness campaigns are being held upon request from Social Welfare Centres, private sector organizations and NGOs. Moreover, posters are being distributed to NGOs and disabled persons’ organisations to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Since 2014, the Disability Empowerment Unit of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity has been organising a National ‘dis’Ability Excellence Award in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The main objective of the award is to recognize the efforts of employers who make their enterprise disability-friendly and employ a considerable number of persons with disabilities. These organisations are therefore portrayed as role models. The excellence award also recognizes employees with disabilities that have been performing above the expected level. The following table provides details of the winners of Award ceremony from year 2014 to 2017:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year**  | **Best Employer**  | **Best Employee** |
| 2014 | 1. Pick ’N’ Eat Ltd (Gold Prize)2.Financial Services commission (Sliver Prize)3.Bioculture Group (Bronze Prize) | 1. Mr. Maulette Jason Michael Denis (Gold Prize)2. Mr. Murthay Arunen(Silver Prize)3. Ms. Payet Cheryl Marie Valerie (Bronze Prize) |
| 2015 | Pick & Buy Ltd | 1. Mr Jhonny Tan Chin Hian from Harel Mallac Group2. Miss Hemisha Ritooah from Pick N Eat Ltd |
| 2016 | 1. Pick & Buy Ltd (First Prize)2. Pick N Eat Ltd (Second Prize) | 1.Ms.Goolooa Natashah2. Ramchurn Keshav from  |
| 2017 | 1. Alpha Cleaning Ltd 2. Zilwa Resort Ltd3. Winner’s Ltd | 1. Neet Fon Lim Chai Sing Chung Sem Chong2.Sanjna Kathapermal |

***Source: The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity***

As at date, it has been observed that persons with disabilities are employed mainly in the field of housekeeping, waitering, food preparation and supermarkets amongst others.

Last year, athletes with disabilities were given an award for their exceptional performance at the Indian Ocean Island Games 2019.

Moreover, the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) provides persons with disabilities with training and employment opportunities. The TEDPB also conducts presentations, workshops and other sensitisation campaigns to encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market. Business Mauritius organised a high-level conference in 2015 on the employability of persons with disabilities led by an International Labour Organisation specialist.

The former Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms in collaboration with Ms Trivita Mathoora, a blind person, produced in 2018, the Constitution of Mauritius in Braille, in an effort to ensure that blind persons have access to information on their fundamental rights. It should be noted that Ms Trivita Mathoora, presently a lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education in the Special Needs Department, is holder of a Master in Science in History with International Relations. She has been a beneficiary of the Francois Sockalingum Award, a scholarship awarded to students with disabilities to help them to pursue their secondary studies provided by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity. Prior to being a lecturer, she was a resource person in Braille at the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund, a Non-Government Organisation catering for the needs of blind persons. She was also a Research Assistant at the Truth and Justice Commission of the State of Mauritius.

With a view raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Hon. M. T. Masutha, the then Minister of Justice and Correctional Services of South Africa, a visually impaired Minister, was invited by the State of Mauritius to talk about Human Rights and Disabilities.

The National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius (NHRC) conducts informative sessions regularly through the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) around the island. These sessions aim at fostering respect for the rights of all persons, including those with disabilities. Particular emphasis is also laid on legislations and policies in place to protect persons with disabilities from various forms of discrimination, abuse and violence.

The NHRC also conducts awareness-raising campaigns to sensitise children at an early age on the rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

It is to be noted that the European Union (EU) has granted funds to the NHRC to finance the implementation of a project entitled ‘Promotion of Respect for Human Rights in Mauritius and Rodrigues’. The project aimed at educating and raising awareness amongst different sections of the Mauritian population on human rights.

The Office of the Ombudsman produced a pamphlet for the intention of the public at large in Mauritius and Rodrigues with a view to educating and sensitizing them on the services offered by the Office of the Ombudsman. During the campaign, a session was also carried out with the ‘Association pour la protection des droits des Handicapés’, an NGO in the disability sector.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is mandated by law to work towards the elimination of discrimination and conduct and foster research and educational and other programmes for the purpose of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity between persons of different status. For the period 2015 to 2019, a total of 89sensitisation campaigns/training programs have been held with several stakeholders to address the various forms of discrimination as stipulated under the Equal Opportunities Act (2008). Emphasis was also laid on **"i*mpairment***".

In its Annual Report 2018-2019, the Ombudsperson for Children has, inter-alia, investigated various cases pertaining to children with disabilities, namely:

* child A, a grade one student, asked to remain at home because of behavioural problems at school;
* violation of the rights of Child C, a child with disabilities;
* child D, a minor with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), being deprived of his right to fair treatment and inclusive education;
* child F, a child with partial visual impairment not provided with a carer at school;
* child H, a minor displaying challenging and risky behaviours at school;
* a minor with disability, Child J, deprived of his right to free transport; and
* the right to social security of Child L, an orphaned minor with disability, impeded due to an administrative issue.

The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children has submitted its comments and recommended remedial actions on these specific cases.