



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, REGIONAL
INTEGRATION AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
(HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION)**

Annual Report for Financial Year 2019-2020



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PART I – ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In September 2017, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms was created and the portfolio of Human Rights was transferred from Prime Minister's Office to the newly created Ministry.

The Senior Chief Executive is the Administrative Head and Accounting Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms. She is assisted in her duties by a Deputy Permanent Secretary, an Assistant Permanent Secretary and officers of the Financial Operations Cadre, Human Resources Management Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre as well as officers of the General Service Grade.

The Office of Public Sector Governance Officers comprises officers of the Financial and Governance Analyst cadre to look into matters pertaining to the good governance in the public sector.

The Senior Chief Executive is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of the different sections of the Division and implementing government policies and programmes.

Following the general elections in November 2019, the subject matter for Human Rights was entrusted to a full-fledged Division, the Human Rights Division (HRD), under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the OPSG was entrusted to the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance.

The HRD is mandated to ensure that the State of Mauritius fulfils its reporting obligations and also provides a platform for the dissemination of information on Human Rights through the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF).

1.2 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

(i) OUR VISION

Our vision is to have a country where Human Rights and human dignity are valued, humanitarian laws are respected and each individual can enjoy his/her fundamental rights freely as per the Constitution and international law.

(ii) OUR MISSION

- a) To promote Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- b) To empower individuals to recognise their fundamental rights and claim any violation of their Human Rights without fear and prejudice.
- c) To ensure appropriate actions are taken and implemented for the State to meet its international reporting obligations regarding Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- d) To establish a national platform for engagement and active participation of all stakeholders including public organisations, NGOs and civil society, to address the challenges in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- e) To ensure that the State of Mauritius is compliant with the Arms Trade Treaty.

(iii) OUR CORE VALUES

- a) Customer Satisfaction
- b) Creativity and Innovativeness
- c) Teamwork
- d) Staff Development
- e) Recognition of dedication of our staff
- f) Professionalism and Integrity
- g) Quality and Excellence

1.3 OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure that fairness and justice prevail in our society.
- (ii) To ensure that the fundamental rights of all are respected.
- (iii) To establish appropriate mechanisms in order to uphold the rule of law.
- (iv) To mainstream Human Rights issues.
- (v) To be a platform for dissemination of data, information and statistics on Human Rights.
- (vi) To ensure that the State of Mauritius fulfils its Human Rights obligations.
- (vii) To ensure that State Reports are prepared in a timely manner and follow up actions are taken thereon.
- (viii) To liaise with international bodies to ensure dissemination of Human Rights for one and all.
- (ix) To enhance the governance landscape in public sector organisations.
- (x) To enhance institutional reforms so that our institutions become more responsive to the needs of the society.
- (xi) To activate the role of institutional development to ensure proper implementation of plans and programmes.



1.4 MINISTER'S STATEMENT

I am pleased to be associated with the presentation of the Annual Report of the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the Financial Year 2019-2020. I became the Minister in charge of the Human Rights Portfolio on 06 February 2021.



The HRD was mandated to ensure that the State of Mauritius fulfils its reporting obligations to disseminate information on Human Rights issues. The portfolio of Human Rights was previously under the aegis of the then Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms. The Human Rights Division was created after the general elections in November 2019 as a full-fledged Division instead of a Ministry as it was during period September 2017 to 2019.

During the period under review the State of Mauritius through the HRD submitted the following reports to various Human Rights Committees, organisations as well as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

- An Interim Report for the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 24 August 2019.
- The 9th and 10th Combined Periodic Report on the Implementation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) in September 2019.
- An Interim Report for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in November 2019.
- Annual Report of ATT for calendar year 2019 in May 2020.
- Transparency Report for Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for calendar year 2019 in May 2020.
- The Country Report for International Humanitarian Law for year 2019 in October 2019.

In line with its mandate to disseminate information on Human Rights issues, the Division produced a short video clip on the subject matter of International Humanitarian Law and distributed same to all stakeholders concerned.

During the period of this Report, Mauritius was faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and also lockdown. Nevertheless, all actions taken by this Division had a Human Rights lens.

Honourable Alan Ganoo
Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

1.5 SUPERVISING OFFICER'S STATEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I am presenting the Annual Report on the performance of the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the Financial Year 2019-2020.

The HRD's Annual Report covers the period when the COVID-19 Pandemic took us by storm due to which lockdowns, quarantines and other societal restrictions were implemented in Mauritius and around the world.

Nevertheless, in line with our commitment, we managed to continue working through home-based assignments to ensure dissemination of information on Human Rights issues and submission of six reports on behalf of the State of Mauritius.

I seize this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the NMRF members and staff of the Division for their support during this difficult period.



Asha Devi Burrenchobay
Senior Chief Executive
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Human Rights Division)

1.6 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

The Human Rights Division is responsible, inter alia to:

- a) draft and prepare reports on Human Rights in line with State obligations;
- b) maintain and monitor a database on the implementation of recommendations made by the United Nations Treaty Bodies and the African Union Commission;
- c) facilitate through the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up consultations, coordination and engagements with all the relevant stakeholders;
- d) respond to all queries, questionnaires, surveys and procedures made by Treaty Bodies and other regional Human Rights organisations; and
- e) advise Government on Human Rights issues as and when required.

(i) NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP (NMRF)

The NMRF is a unique Inter-Ministerial structure set up administratively by for effective reporting and implementation of treaty obligations, engagement with the international and regional Human Rights systems and follow up on the recommendations or decisions emanating from the Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, Special procedure Mandate Holders, Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and at the national level. The NMRF is chaired by the Hon. Minister responsible for Human Rights and comprises representatives of Ministries and Departments, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Non-Governmental Organisations / the Civil Society.

The Human Rights Division also engages actively with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

(ii) INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

International Humanitarian Law is the set of international treaties customary rules that, in times of armed conflict, defend people who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities and restricts the use of means end methods of war.

The State of Mauritius is party to most of the International Humanitarian Law instruments though it is a peaceful country and outside the arm conflict regions. The list of International Humanitarian Law instruments to which Mauritius is party is as follows:

1.7 CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES

Mauritius is party to the following international instruments and has ratified and acceded to the following:

Table 1: Ratification of Human Rights Conventions

SN	Treaty/Convention	Date of ratification
1	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP)	31 October 2008
2	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (CRC-OP-SC)	14 June 2011
3	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC)	12 February 2009
4	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	08 January 2010
Other Multilateral Treaties		
5	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	18 April 2003
Regional Human Rights Instruments		
6	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	19 June 1992
7	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	14 February 1992
8	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	03 March 2003
9	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	16 June 2017

Table 2: Accession to Human Rights Conventions

SN	Treaty/Convention	Date of accession
1	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)	12 December 1973
2	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPROP-1)	12 December 1973

3	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	12 December 1973
4	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	30 May 1972
5	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	09 July 1984
6	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	09 December 1992
7	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT- OP)	21 June 2005
8	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	26 July 1990
Other Multilateral Treaties		
9	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational	24 September 2003
10	The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction	23 March 1993
11	Convention for the protection of individuals with regards to automatic processing of personal data (European Treaty 108)	17 June 2016

Table 3: International Humanitarian Law Instruments

	Treaty	Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded	Domestic Legislation enacted
A.	The Four Geneva Conventions and their Protocols		
1.	1949 Geneva Convention I for the Amelioration of the conditions of the Wounded and Sick in the Armed Forces in the Field	Succeeded on 18 August 1970	Geneva Conventions Act
2	1949 Geneva Convention II for the Amelioration of the condition of the Wounded and Sick and Shipwrecked members of the Armed Forces at Sea	Succeeded on 18 August 1970	Geneva Conventions Act

3	1949 Geneva Convention III relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War	Succeeded on 18 August 1970	Geneva Conventions Act
4	1949 Geneva Convention IV relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War	Succeeded on 18 August 1970	Geneva Conventions Act
5	1977 Protocol I – Additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict	Acceded on 22 March 1982	Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 2003
6	1977 Protocol II – Additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts	Acceded on 22 March 1982	Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act
B.	The Biological Weapons Conventions 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction	Signed on 10 April 1972 Ratified on 7 August 1972	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Act
	Treaty	Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded	Domestic Legislation enacted
C.	Chemical Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production Stock-piling and Use of chemical Weapons and their Destruction	Ratified on 9 February 1993	Chemical Weapons Convention Act
D.	The CCW and its Protocols		
1	1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain conventional Weapons (CCW) which may deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Acceded on 6 May 1996	The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) which may
2	1980 Protocol I on the Non- Detectable Fragments	Acceded on 6 May 1996	

3	1980 Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices	Acceded on 6 May 1996	deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects Act 2018
	Amended Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices (1998)	Acceded on 30 October 2018	
4	1980 Protocol III on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons	Acceded on 6 May 1996	
5	1995 Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons	Acceded on 6 May 1996	
	Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War	Acceded on 30 October 2018	
E.	The Ottawa Treaty 1972 Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the Use of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction	Acceded on 24 December 2002	Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act
	Treaty	Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded	Domestic Legislation enacted
F.	The Rome Statute 1998 Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court	Signed on June 1998 Ratified on 5 March 2002	International Criminal Court Act
G.	The Convention on the Rights of the Child The 2000 Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Signed on 11 November 2001 Ratified on 12 February 2009	The main provisions of the CRC were to be incorporated in the Childrens' Bill
H.	Convention for the Protection of Cultural property in the event of Armed Conflict	Ratified on 22 December 2006	Draft Amendment Bill under Preparation at the Ministry of Arts and Culture

I.	Arms Trade Treaty	Acceded on 23 July 2015	The Firearms Act (amended in 2016)
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1.8 QUESTIONNAIRES

The Human Right Council appoints independent Human Rights experts, namely, Special Rapporteurs, to report and advise them on Human Rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

The Special Rapporteurs:

- (i) conduct annual thematic studies, seek information from calls for input and convene expert consultations;
- (ii) contribute to the development of international Human Rights standards; and
- (iii) engage in advocacy, raise public awareness, and provide advice for technical cooperation.

The Human Rights Division receives questionnaires regularly from Special Rapporteurs and also from the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) requesting inputs from Member States on various issues.

The Division coordinates with relevant Ministries and Departments and submits responses to the OHCHR based on the inputs received and compiled. The replies made are published officially on the website of the OHCHR.

During the period of July 2019 to June 2020, the Human Rights Division replied to 18 questionnaires on the following topics:

- (i) Business and Human Rights
- (ii) Children
- (iii) Democracy
- (iv) Development
- (v) Disability and Human Rights
- (vi) Education
- (vii) Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association
- (viii) Freedom of Religion and Belief
- (ix) Health
- (x) Human Rights Defenders
- (xi) Internal Displacement
- (xii) Leprosy
- (xiii) Migration

1.9 GENDER STATEMENT

Gender equality is at the very heart of Human Rights. The Division recognises the major role of women as agents of development and shares the opinion that gender equality and empowerment of women are critical factors for overall economic, social and political progress. The Division ensures that gender practices are an integral part at all levels in its decision-making process. Out of the 31 officers, there is a mix of 10 male and 21 female officers working without any disparity, whether at professional, technical or support staff level.

The Division is adopting the following practices for an appropriate gender approach:

- (i) Employment under delegated power from the Public Service Commission will be given due consideration, that is, irrespective of applicants' caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation.
- (ii) Reinforcement of equal opportunity at all levels of the Division, in all functions.

1.10 ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

The Senior Chief Executive is the Administrative Head and Accounting Officer of the Division. She is assisted in her duties by a Deputy Permanent Secretary, an Assistant Permanent Secretary and officers of the Financial Operations Cadre, Human Resources Management Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre as well as officers of the General Service Grade.

The Senior Chief Executive is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of the different sections of the Division and for implementing government policies and programmes.

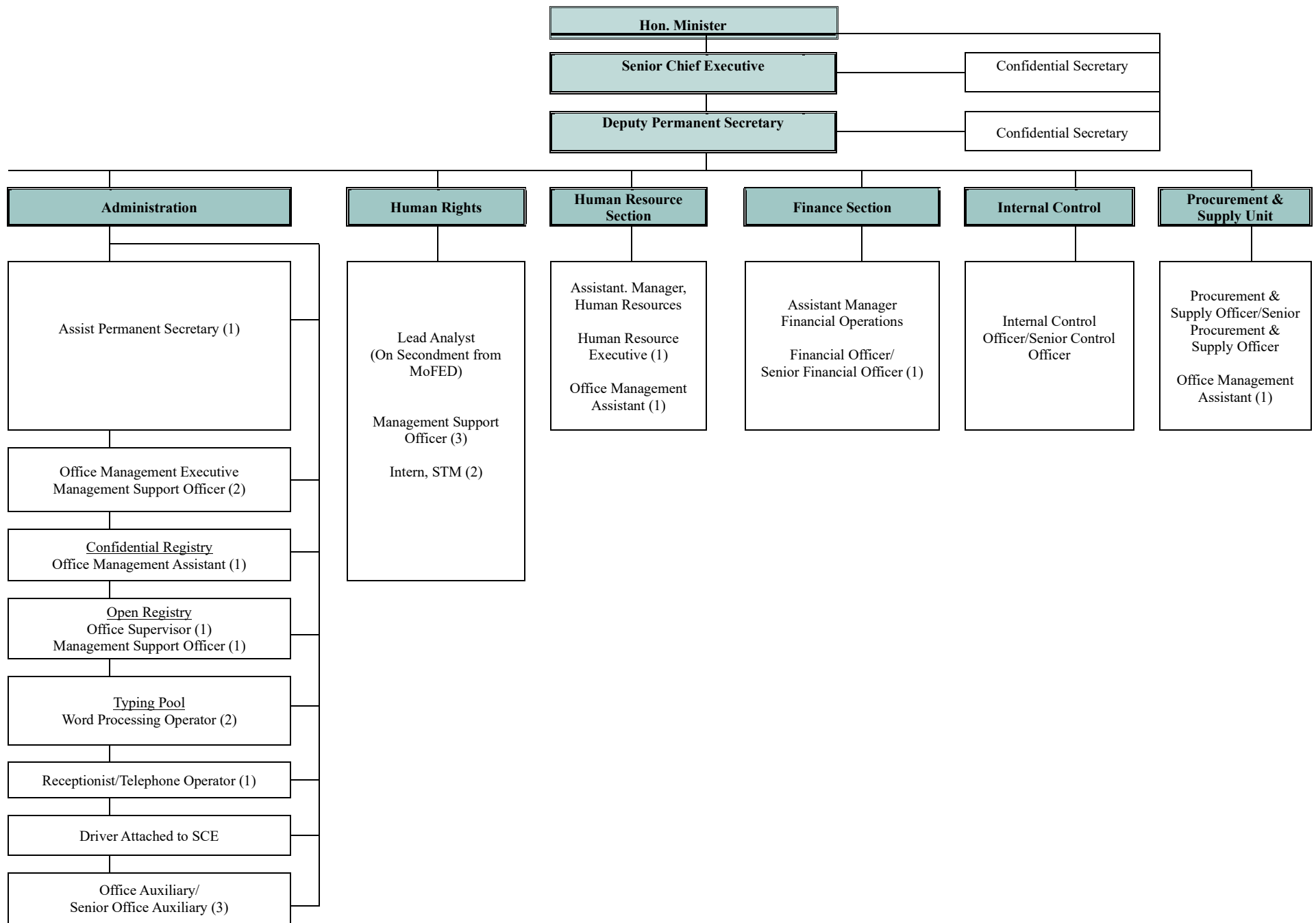
One post of Human Rights Officer has been created and established in the Civil Establishment Order 2019 and its Scheme of Service prescribed on 05 February 2020. The post could not be however be filled in view of no provision available in the Budget.

The Division is manned by a workforce of 31 staff. The staffing position as at 30 June 2020 is at Annex A.

Two Interns have been employed under the Service to Mauritius Programme and have been posted in the Human Rights Unit to provide support to the existing team, while gaining experience and enhancing employability on the labour market.

One officer from the Central Information Systems Division provides IT technical support as and when required.

One Health and Safety Officer from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms serves the Division on a part time basis.



1.11 LIST OF SENIOR STAFF AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

POST	NAME	PHONE N _o	FAX N _o	E-MAIL
Senior Chief Executive	BURRENCHOBAY Asha Devi (Ms)	260-1907	214-3616	aburrenchobay@govmu.org
Deputy Permanent Secretary	DEENOO Dharamraj	260-1908	214-3643	ddeenoo@govmu.org
Assistant Permanent Secretary	EMRITH Rakesh	260-1904	241-3616	raemrith@govmu.org
HUMAN RESOURCES				
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	OOJAGEER Koresha Banon (Mrs)	260-1910	214-3616	kboojageer@govmu.org
FINANCE SECTION				
Assistant Manager Financial Operations	KHODABUX Salmah Bibi Oummeh (Mrs)	260-2401	214-3616	sakhodabux@govmu.org
ADMINISTRATION SECTION				
Office Management Executive	MOONEESAMY Marie-Anne (Mrs)	260-1906	214-3616	mmooneesamy@govmu.org
PROCUREMENT SECTION				
Procurement and Supply Officer/ Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	RAMSEOOK Pooja (Mrs)	260-1905	214-3616	pramseook@govmu.org
RECEPTION				
Reception Desk		214-1909		

PART II-DIVISION'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FROM JULY 2019 TO JUNE 2020

(i) OBLIGATIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW INSTRUMENTS

The State of Mauritius through this Division submitted the following reports to the international Human Rights organisations in Financial Year July 2019 – June 2020:

a) An Interim Report for the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 24 August 2019

The State of Mauritius submitted its Progress status on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Concluding Observations of 2018, in August 2019. The interim report covers information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 29 and 31 of the 2018 CERD Concluding Observations.

The information submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination covers the following;

i. Creole Language

- The wide use of Creole Language in the Republic of Mauritius, including; administration, judicial and education systems.
- The setting up of the Akademi Kreol Repiblik Moris and its objectives.

ii. Situation of the Chagossians

- The illegal excision of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom.
- The completion of the decolonisation of Mauritius and resettlement in the Chagos Archipelago.
- The rights and welfare of the Chagossians.

b) The 9th to 10th Combined Periodic Report on the Implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in September 2019

The State of Mauritius submitted its 9th and 10th Combined Periodic Report on the Implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in September 2019.

The Report contains general information on the demographic, economic, social and cultural characteristics of the country as well as its constitutional, political and legal structure. It also covers the new developments in the Human Rights framework and the various Human Rights policies for the promotion and protection of Human Rights over the period 2017 to August 2019.

c) An Interim Report for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in November 2019

The State of Mauritius submitted its follow-up information on the implementation of recommendations at paragraphs 8, 38 and 40 of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the Human Rights Committee.

The Interim Report covers the following:

i. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- Information on the process for the selection and appointment of the NHRC;
- Measures on prevention of conflicts of interests;
- Clarification on the mission of each Division of the NHRC; and
- Information on the recruitment of suitable human resources for the proper discharge of the functions of the NHRC.

ii. Refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons

- Information on the stand of the State of Mauritius on the various Conventions and Protocols relating to the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons; and
- Measures taken by the State of Mauritius on non-refoulement and assistance to asylum seekers or refugees.

iii. Juvenile justice

- Information on the Act governing the administration of juvenile justice in Mauritius;
- The proper setting-up of a Children's Court;
- Information on the training of Police Officers to handle cases relating to juveniles and child related offences; and
- Information on legal aid and legal assistance provisions to minors charged with crime or misdemeanour.

d) The Arms Trade Treaty Annual Report for calendar year 2019 in May 2020

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is the only legally binding instrument to regulate the global arms trade. At its core, the ATT aims to promote transparency in the arms trade in order to build confidence amongst States Parties. One way that the treaty advances this objective is its requirement for States Parties to annually report on their arms exports and imports.

It is covered under Article 13(3) of the ATT in which States Parties are required to submit a report on an annual basis that includes information ‘*concerning authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms covered under Article 2(1)*’ that were made during the preceding calendar year (01 January to 31 December).

The ATT Annual Report 2019 highlights information provided by the implementing agency of the treaty, namely, the Mauritius Police Force and other relevant stakeholders, on their arms exports and imports that occurred during the calendar year. In a nutshell, the report analyses exports and imports to the ATT, highlights emerging trends in reporting practices, and identifies certain challenges to transparency.

e) The Transparency Report for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention for calendar year 2019 in May 2020

Article 7 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention must be updated by the States Parties annually, covering the last calendar year, and same should be reported to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In this context, the Transparency report of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention covering calendar year 2019 was submitted in May 2020 and covered the following issues in respect of anti-personnel mines:

- i. national implementation measures;
- ii. stockpiles and destruction;
- iii. technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed;
- iv. cluster munitions retained and transferred;
- v. status of conversion programmes;
- vi. contaminated areas and clearance;
- vii. warning to the population and risk education;
- viii. victim assistance; and
- ix. national resources and international cooperation and assistance.

f) International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Country Report

A delegation from the State of Mauritius including Officers from the Human Rights Division attended the Regional International Humanitarian Law Seminar that was held from 22 to 24 October 2019 in Pretoria. During the seminar, the Country Report for International Humanitarian Law for year 2019 for the State of Mauritius was presented.

The report provided an update on the different IHL treaties signed and ratified, the domestic legislation enacted, outstanding ratifications, the obstacles and challenges faced by the State of Mauritius, the composition of the IHL Committee of Mauritius and the activities organised.

(ii) COUNTRY VISIT

The African Union (AU) Special Rapporteur on Ending Child Marriage and other representatives from the AU carried out a country visit in Mauritius from 6 to 8 August 2019.

The purpose of the country visit was to see what measures were taken by Mauritius particularly to end child marriage and promote welfare of children in general. Moreover, the visit was an opportunity for the delegation to learn from the good practices in Mauritius in that area which could be shared with other African countries.

On 08 August 2019, the Ministry organised a working session with different Ministries, Departments and the NGOs/Civil Societies/Development Partners on ‘Ending Early Child Marriage’.

2.2 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Production of video on International Humanitarian Law and International Disaster Response Law

With a view to sensitising the public at large on the subject matter of IHL (*Droit Humanitaire International*) and International Disaster Response Law (*Droit Relatif aux Catastrophes*), this Division produced a short video clip which was launched on 12th August 2019 on the occasion of the International Humanitarian Day.

The video was distributed throughout all Ministries, Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, secondary schools and various other institutions.



2.3 LECTURES AND TALKS ORGANISED AROUND SPECIFIC THEMES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Promotional Mission by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)

A delegation of the ACHPR effected a promotional mission to Mauritius from 13 to 17 August 2019, in conformity with Article 45(1) of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which mandates the Commission with the promotion and protection of human and people's rights on the African continent.



The delegation comprised:

- (i) the Honourable Commissioner Soyata Maiga, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Chairperson of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV, People at Risk, Vulnerable and Affected by the HIV and Chair of the Working Group on Populations/Indigenous Communities in Africa (Head of Delegation);
- (ii) the Honourable Commissioner Hatem Essaim, Commissioner for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Republic of Mauritius and Chairman of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture; and
- (iii) the Honourable Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa.

The Honourable Commissioners were accompanied throughout the mission by Ms Estelle Nkounkou and Ms Albab Tesfaye, lawyers from the Secretariat of the African Commission. They met with various Governmental figures and had several working sessions with Senior Officers and representatives of Ministries/Departments, Civil Society and NHRIs.

The Delegation noted, with satisfaction, many positive developments characterized by a clear political will and a real commitment to the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Mauritius.

2.4 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training and Development is an important component of the Human Resource Management. Thus, staff of the Division are provided with regular training to keep them abreast of new skills, trends and techniques. A list of generic competency-based training courses is run by the Civil Service College, Mauritius with the main objective to increase staff sense of responsibility and accountability. On the other hand, specific training programmes, aims at improving the officer's technical competencies and knowledge, with the aim of producing a positive change in the functioning of the Division and enhancing productivity.

List of training courses, workshops and seminars attended by officers from July 2019 to June 2020.

Competency-based Training Courses organised by the Civil Service College, Mauritius:

- (i) Advanced Microsoft Excel
- (ii) Legislative Drafting
- (iii) Writing Skills for Parliamentary Questions and Cabinet Documents
- (iv) Negotiation and Mediation Skills
- (v) Risk Management
- (vi) Tender Preparation and Evaluation
- (vii) Writing Effective Minutes of Meeting

Capacity Building and Capability Programmes sponsored by the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms: Level 1 to Level 3.

Working session:

- (i) Session on Losses, Write-off and Disposal of Unwanted Goods.

PART III- FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Human Rights Division was set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to deal with all matters concerning Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Appropriation of funds for the Human Rights Division was made from Sub-head 15-401 'Justice and Human Rights' which was formerly under the ex-Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms.

3.2 ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHANGES

The Budget provision for Financial Year 2019-2020 was Rs 30.5 Million compared to Rs 36.8 Million in Financial Year 2018-2019.

The Actual Expenditure incurred for Financial Year 2019-2020 was Rs 17.92 Million representing 58.75% of the total provision for the year.

The underspending was partly due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic whereby activities of the Division had to be scaled down.

3.3 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

(i) Statement of Revenue (Nil)

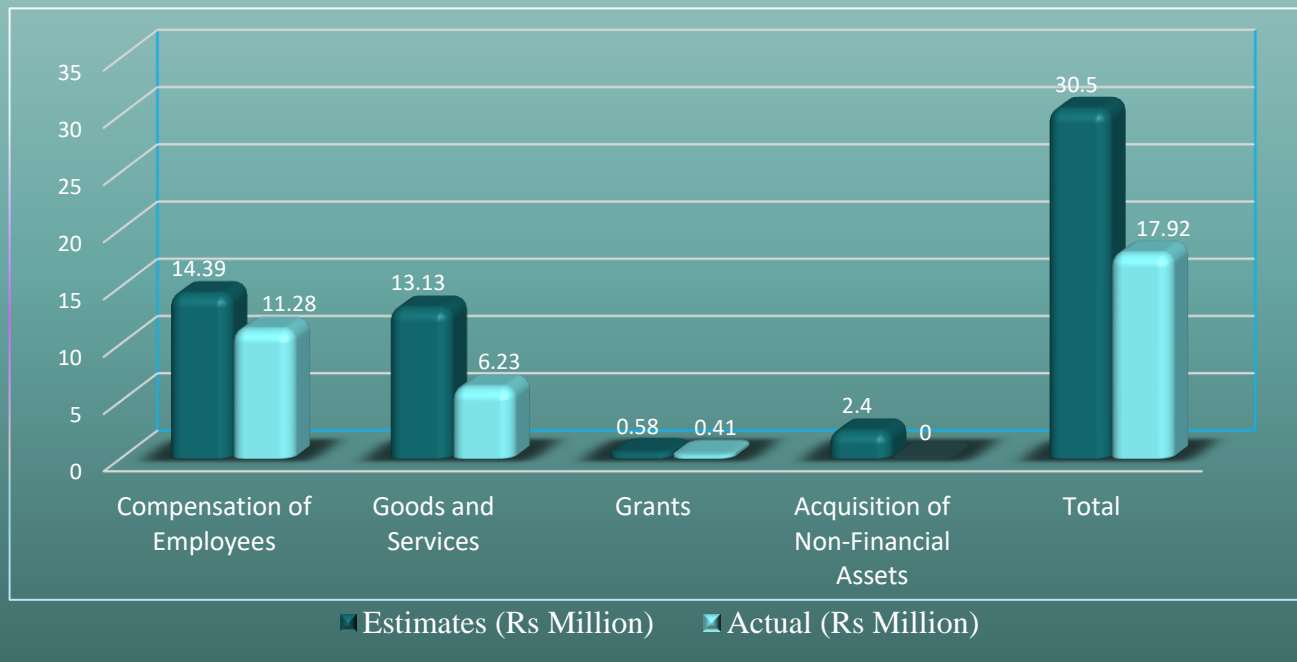
The Human Rights Division does not collect Revenue.

(ii) Statement of Expenditure

The Preparation of the Statement of Expenditure is based on information extracted from the Treasury Accounting System.

Sub-Head 16-401(Year 2018-2019) 15-401(Year 2019-2020)	2018-2019 Actual (Rs Million)	2019-2020 Estimates (Rs Million)	2019-2020 Actual (Rs Million)
Compensation of Employees	11.34	14.39	11.28
Goods and Services	4.45	13.13	6.23
Grants	0.47	0.58	0.41
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0	2.40	NIL
Total	16.26	30.50	17.92

SUB-HEAD 15-401 2019-2020



PART IV- WAY FORWARD

4.1 SWOT ANALYSIS, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The changing economic, social and environmental landscape provides new challenges and opportunities for Government. Expectations about performance and quality of organisations in the Public domain are increasing all the time.

The public sector is constantly being asked to do more with less. The SWOT analysis below provides an overview of the position of this Division and the various trends and challenges and other operational/strategic issues to address to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

STRENGTHS

- Newly set up Ministry
- Good leadership
- Exposure to best international practice
- Experienced Senior staff
- Engagement and collective responsibilities
- Opportunities for collaborative research
- Wide array of compiled information
- Good communication and operating network with Ministries/Departments

WEAKNESSES

- Limited number of staffs
- Duplication of work by various Governmental Institutions
- High staff turnover
- Lack of technical expertise in Human Rights
- Lack of well-established methods
- Time consuming processes
- Heavily dependent on paperwork
- Disconnected approach to Institutional Reforms
- Limited office space

OPPORTUNITIES

- Aggressive Human Rights sensitisation at all levels of society
- Access to additional Regional and International Human Rights Instruments
- Research output beneficial to layman
- Training and development in new Human Rights approaches and Institutional Reforms
- Use of Management Information System (MIS) in Human Rights and Institutional Reforms
- Creating a Human Rights Cadre

THREATS

- Institutional Memory
- Change in portfolio of Ministry
- Merging and diversification of existing entities
- Low commitment from stakeholders

4.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Strategic Direction of the Division over the next three years is as follows:

- (i) To reinforce the public sector governance and accountability structures to protect the rights of all individuals.
- (ii) To monitor and follow-up regarding recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Council in respect of all ratified conventions.
- (iii) To prepare documents with latest available statistics.
- (iv) To involve all stakeholders in preparation of reports.
- (v) Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals as Human Rights issues.
- (vi) To prepare a communication strategy in respect of Human Rights issues pertaining to the Republic of Mauritius.
- (vii) To make Mauritius a reference in respect of Human Rights issue.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
(Human Rights Division)
Staffing Position as at 30.06.20**

SN	POST	FUNDED POSITIONS 2019/2020	NO. IN POST	REMARKS
1	Senior Chief Executive	-	1	Paid by Prime Minister's Officer
2	Deputy Permanent Secretary	1	1	
3	Assistant Permanent Secretary	2	1	One APS transferred on 06.01.2020
4	Human Rights Officer	-	-	One post created in Civil Establishment Order 2019
5	Lead Analyst (on secondment)	-	1	Reverted to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development on 05.07.20
6	Assistant Manager, Human Resources	-	1	Paid by Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
7	Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1	1	
8	Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal control Officer	1	-	
9	Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1	
10	Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer	1	1	
11	Assistant Financial Officer	1	-	Appointed to the grade of Central Procurement Officer/Senior Central Procurement Officer on 05.03.19. No replacement provided.
12	Human Resource Executive	-	1	Paid by Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
13	Office Management Executive	1	1	
14	Office Management Assistant	3	3	
15	Office Supervisor	1	1	
16	Confidential Secretary	2	2	
17	Management Support Officer	5	5	

18	Word Processing Operator	2	2	
19	Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1	1	
20	Driver	1	1	On Secondment from the Ministry of /Environment and Sustainable Development and attached to the SCE.
21	Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	3	3	
	TOTAL	27	28	

Two (2) Interns enlisted under the Service to Mauritius Enlisted Programme of the Ministry of Finance, Economic and Planning Development and posted to this Division with effect from May 2019. Their contract of employment has been renewed with effect from May 2020.