



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

Attorney General's Office

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
Renganaden Seenevassen Building
Port Louis, MAURITIUS**

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PART I

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

VISION

Our vision is to develop the Attorney General's Office (AGO) into a Centre of Excellence for legal advice, representation and legislative drafting services.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide, without fear or favour, hatred or ill-will, to the Government sound and independent legal advice, and representation as well as to contribute into the development of a fair and just legal system and the promotion of the rule of law, in the interest of the State and the people.

SUPERVISING OFFICER'S STATEMENT

The Attorney General's Office plays a cardinal role in supporting the Government in the pursuit of its objectives. Its mission is to provide the highest standard of professional legal services to the Government whilst ensuring adherence to the rule of law.

The objectives of this Office, combined with the professional legal skills of its experienced and dedicated staff, enables the Office to support the Government and the public at large.

On the operational stand point, this Office, nonetheless, deals with challenges on a daily basis to ensure the smooth running of its various section/units. This Office gives credence to adopting new technology, skills and innovation to improve its services in order to stay true to its vision to develop the Attorney General's Office into a Centre of Excellence for legal advice, representation and legislative drafting services. As innovation encourages digital connectivity in our current ever-evolving society, there remains the challenge to meet increasing workload with limited staff operating in a restricted office space. However, these challenges tend to be addressed, although on a short-term basis, in order to ensure continuity. The ideal situation would have been to have a larger office area in order to ensure optimal work space and to resolve issues on a more permanent basis. The Office is already working to this aspect and awaits impatiently to have its own space allowing it to grow and expand in terms of workforce and better working premises compliant with all health and safety norms. However, this Office maintains full responsibility and commitment for providing the best possible service with available resources.

This Office is proud of the goals it has established over the years. The Office makes constant effort to embrace innovation and creativity. It continues with the aim for better coordination between the various stakeholders in order to ensure improved services as one of the greatest law chambers in the country. This Office is grateful to its entire staff for their support and contribution and looks forward to even greater achievements in the future.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The Attorney General's Office plays a vital role in the administration of justice by providing legal advice to government departments, drafting legislation, and by providing litigation services to the government departments in the implementation of its policy. It further provides public services where it also deals directly with the public, such as the Change of Name section and Curatelle section.

Counsel within the Attorney General's Office have expertise in all types of legal issues that arise in public life. Amongst others, Counsel are specialised in Public Law, Constitutional Law, International Trade, Financial Law, and areas that are relevant to all Government departments. The main function of the Counsel, as advisory Counsel in the Office, is to assist the Attorney General in performing his functions, powers and duties. The range of advisory work normally carried out by the Office is very broad. It covers domestic, EU, international law, criminal law, in fact, any legal issue which the Government may require legal advice. The work carried out by Counsel falls broadly into three categories: (1) the provision of legal advice; (2) litigation; and (3) legal advice in relation to the drafting of legislation.

GENDER STATEMENT

Workplace gender equality can be achieved when people are able to access and enjoy equal reward, resources and opportunities regardless of gender. Following the National Gender Policy (2022-2030) which was launched in March 2022, this Office has already set up its Gender Cell which plays a key role in ensuring the implementation of policies at Office level.

This Office recognises the importance of achieving gender equality not only because it is fair and the right approach, but also because it has a direct link to the Country's overall economic performance. As such, this Office promotes gender equality in workplace by ensuring broadly equal opportunities and outcomes for men and women. In May 2024, this Office organised an Awareness Training on Gender Mainstreaming for its staff. This Office has indeed experienced the positive impact of gender equality through the years and aims to improve/enhance its commitment to gender equality within its workforce.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

The AGO is under the portfolio of the Honourable Attorney General.

The Office of the Solicitor General

The Solicitor General, as administrative head of the AGO ensures that the Office runs smoothly on a day to day basis in order to deliver the services through adherence to its vision and mission. The Solicitor General is assisted by a pool of professional staffs and support staffs in ensuring that the objectives of the Office are met. Progress reports are prepared at intervals to ensure consistency and improvement in the overall delivery of services by the Office.

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel

The Parliamentary Counsel, as head of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, heads the legislative drafting department, which also plays an important role in the implementation of Government policy. The Parliamentary Counsel operates with a team of specialist law officers and support officers of the Law Revision Unit who respectively provide advice on legal issues in the drafting of legislation and formatting the legal provisions. The support officers are also involved in formatting and revision of laws. They are also involved in providing expert skills and knowledge on proposed legislative action, for example, whether it might conflict with the provisions of the Constitution, Acts and Treaties of the European Union, the European Convention on Human Rights or other international treaties to which the State has signed up.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The mission of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is to bring offenders to justice and to ensure that their rights, including the rights of others, are safeguarded. It is committed to deliver a public service of high quality and ensure that a positive impact is made on people's lives by making their communities safer.

The powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) are set out in Section 72 of the Constitution. The ODPP draws on the experience and knowledge of emerging issues in the prosecution service and focuses on how it can achieve its mission to deliver an effective prosecution service to the public at large. The ODPP further ensures participation of its staff in national and international inter-agency committees and working groups to create better awareness of its role and functions within its jurisdiction.

The Law Reform Commission (LRC)

The Law Reform Commission is an independent statutory body, established by the Law Reform Commission Act 2006 and operates under the aegis of the Attorney General's Office.

Functions and Powers of the Law Reform Commission

1. The functions of the Law Reform Commission are to review in a systematic way, the law of Mauritius. Its functions also include making recommendations for the reform and development, of law, and to ensure the law is understandable and accessible as is practicable¹.
2. The Commission has the power, *inter alia*, to:
 - Initiate proposals for the review, reform or development of any aspect of the law of Mauritius and to receive and consider any such proposal made or referred to it by the Attorney-General or any other person;
 - Conduct public hearings, seek comments from the public on its proposals, and consult any person or class of persons;
 - Request information from any Government department, any organisation or person in relation to the review, reform or development of any aspect of the law of Mauritius;
 - Publicise such parts of its work in such manner as it thinks expedient².
3. In line with the provision of section 6(1) of the Act, the Attorney-General may, at any time, request the Commission to examine any aspect of the law of Mauritius, and the Commission has the duty to review that aspect of the law accordingly and report to the Attorney-General thereon with its recommendations.
4. When making its recommendations, the Commission is expected to attach, where applicable and as far as practicable, a draft bill to the recommendations³.

¹ Section 4(1) of the Law Reform Commission Act

² Section 5(2) of the Law Reform Commission Act

³ Section 4(3) of the Law Reform Commission Act.

5. According to section 4(3) of the Act, the Commission has a legal duty to prepare and submit to the Attorney-General, at least once a year, a program for the review of specified aspects of the law of Mauritius with a view to their reform or development⁴.
6. Under section 17(1) of the Act, the Commission is required to submit to the Attorney-General an annual report on its activities, before same is tabled in the National Assembly⁵.

Structure of the Law Reform Commission and its Resources

The Commission is a corporate body and its members consist of

- (a) a Chairperson, appointed by the Attorney-General;
- (b) a representative of the Judiciary appointed by the Chief Justice;
- (c) the Solicitor-General or his representative;
- (ca) the Director of Public Prosecutions or his representative⁶;
- (d) a barrister, appointed by the Attorney-General after consultation with the Mauritius Bar Council;
- (e) an attorney, appointed by the Attorney-General after consultation with the Mauritius Law Society;
- (f) a notary, appointed by the Attorney-General after consultation with the *Chambre des Notaires*;
- (g) a full-time member of the Department of Law of the University of Mauritius, appointed by the Attorney-General after consultation with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius; and
- (h) two members of the civil society, appointed by the Attorney-General.

⁴Since 2007, the Commission has submitted, at the beginning of every calendar year, its Annual Program of Review, Reform and Development of the Law to the Attorney . As from 2015, the Commission issues its annual Program in July.

⁵ The Commission has each year submitted to the Attorney -General Annual Reports on its activities: the annual reports cover work done during the previous financial year.

⁶Section 7 (1) of the Law Reform Commission Act, which provides for the membership of the Commission was amended by Finance (Miscellaneous provisions) Act No. 14 of 2009 by inserting, after paragraph(c), the following paragraph “(ca) the Director of Public Prosecutions or his representative”.

Operation of the Law Reform Commission: Its Vision, Strategic Objectives and Working Methodology

The Commission considers that its primary function is of ensuring our laws are in conformity with constitutional and human rights standards, as well as with our international obligations.

With the integration of Mauritius in the international economy, there is mounting pressure to adopt new laws to reflect international standards. Policies can no longer be devised in ignorance of international norms and practices, hence the need for adequate research so that policy makers are made fully aware of the integration of proposed legislative changes.

Our laws, in the opinion of the Commission, should reflect best international practices. The Commission is thus committed to comparative legal research in order to evaluate the merits and demerits of our law in the light of the experience of other jurisdictions. The Commission also holds the view that, where possible, any proposed solution must be tested against empirical evidence.

The Commission's vision is that of just, fair and efficient laws. Laws must reflect and advance the Nation's social and economic interests, in the light of the exigencies of globalisation.

The Commission's priorities and strategic objectives reflect the operating environment of the Commission and its commitment to work with its stakeholders and other sector agencies to achieve, in particular:

- (a) More accessible and user-friendly legislation that enhances public awareness, confidence and understanding of the law;
- (b) Higher quality legislation that facilitates underlying policy objectives, that meets society's contemporary needs and reflects its diverse values;
- (c) Constitutionally appropriate and consistent law that acknowledges the international human rights instruments and other treaties to which Mauritius is a party; and
- (d) The development of a legal environment that reflects the increasingly global nature of law and co-operation between legal systems.

The Reports/Papers of the Commission on aspects of law reviewed are invariably uploaded on its website and brought to attention of the public to generate reflection on laws and their underlying policies.

Reports/Papers/Publications on Review of Laws and Proposals for Reform during Financial Year 2023-2024

1. Issue Paper on « Legibility of medical prescriptions and minimisation of medication errors » [LRC_ R&P 173, November 2023]
2. Issue Paper on « Autonomous criminalisation of mob justice » [LRC_ R&P 174, November 2023]
3. Issue Paper on “La réforme du principe de bonne foi en droit contractuel mauricien” [LRC_R&P 175, November 2023],
4. Issue Paper on “Protection of the Rights and Interests of Elderly Persons in Mauritius” [LRC_R&P 176, December 2023]
5. Report and Draft Bill on “Prevention of Food Waste in Mauritius” [LRC_ R&P 177, December 2023]
6. Discussion Paper on “The law pertaining to display of price” [LRC_ R&P 178, February 2024]
7. Interim Report on “Sentencing Guidelines and Award of Civil Damages” [LRC_ R&P 179, February 2024]
8. Discussion Paper on « La réforme de la vente en l’état futur d’achèvement » [LRC_ R&P 180, March 2024]
9. Issue Paper on « Criminalisation of denial of access to public beaches in Mauritius » [LRC_ R&P 181, June 2024]
10. Issue Paper on “Reform of Judicial System of Sale by Levy” [LRC_ R&P 182, June 2024]

Workshops / Meetings with international stakeholders and partners pertaining to the work of the Commission

A delegation from the Business Climate Unit (CCA) of the Democratic Republic of Congo (under the aegis of the Office of the President of DRC) visited the LRC from 4th to 8th September 2023, for an exchange service mission, to learn more about reforms proposed by the Commission pertaining, among other things, to the ease of doing business.

The Ombudsperson for Children’s Office organised a two-day workshop on Tuesday 5th September and Wednesday 6th September 2023. The theme of the workshop was focused on children in conflict with the law and deprived of liberty. The Chief Executive Officer and Law Reform Officers from the Commission took part in the colloquium as resource persons. The CEO gave a Keynote address on the occasion.

On 10 November 2023, in collaboration with the IJLS, the Mauritius Bar Association and the ERAGE (École Régionale des Avocats du Grand Est), the Chief Executive Officer has delivered a lecture on *La théorie des actes de langage dans les clauses contractuelles : vers une ontologie contractuelle performative*. The application of the theory of speech acts, initiated by the philosopher J. L. Austin and developed by J. Searle, in the field of contract law, opens up enriching avenues of reflection. By redirecting our attention towards the way in which language brings about a legal reality, this interdisciplinary approach can help us to better understand the ontological role played by performative verbs and the different speech acts that are the locutionary act, the illocutionary act and the perlocutionary act, in contractual clauses. This area of exploration contributes to a better understanding of the pragmatic nature of contracts and the implications related to the effectiveness and legality of commitments.

[The Mauritius International Arbitration Centre \(MIAC\)](#)

The Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (MIAC) brings the highest level of dispute resolution services to the international community. From its establishment in 2011 until 2018, MIAC operated as part of a joint venture with the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA-MIAC Arbitration Centre). MIAC has operated as an independent arbitration center since 27 July 2018, drawing on the significant expertise gained during this initial phase of its development.

MIAC operates with the support of an Advisory Board, a Board of Directors, and a Secretariat, and draws on the established legal framework for international arbitration in Mauritius including the Mauritian International Arbitration Act, 2008 and the role of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) thereunder.

MIAC contributes to the Government’s overall policy of developing Mauritius as a dispute settlement hub and a state-of-the art international arbitral seat for Africa and beyond. MIAC is operationally independent from the Government, and strict principles of non-interference by Government in the

administration of MIAC cases are guaranteed by binding international agreements and are enshrined in MIAC's Constitution.

- Achievements for the financial year 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024

Casework

During the financial year 2023/2024, MIAC staff members have acted and provided assistance to 4 appointing authority and 23 registry matters including 4 matters under the MIAC Arbitration Rules and a matter for which meetings or hearings were hosted by MIAC.

Memorandum of Understanding with Middlesex University Mauritius

On 5 July 2023, MIAC concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Middlesex University Mauritius in relation to the Mauritius Arbitration Academy. This partnership between the Mauritius Arbitration Academy and MIAC aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering all law students, not only those studying at Middlesex University Mauritius, an opportunity to delve deep into practical aspects of arbitration through seminars and workshops and to learn from seasoned arbitration practitioners.

The event was held at the Mauritius Arbitration Suite in a hybrid format and followed by an insightful panel discussion on Careers in Arbitration moderated by Ms. Vandana Beessoo (Lecturer at Middlesex University Mauritius and Lead of the Mauritius Arbitration Academy) with Mr. Yvan Jean-Louis (Assistant Solicitor-General and Director of MIAC), Mr. Mithilesh Lallah (Barrister at Lallah Chambers), Mr. Wesley Pydiamah (Partner and Deputy Head Africa Group at Eversheds Sutherland), Ms. Olga Boltenko (Partner at Fandga Partners), Ms. Reshma Oogarah (Arbitrator and Legal Counsel at Niyom Legal) and Ms. Clémence Assou (MIAC Registrar and Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration). Each panelist shared their own experiences and offered guidance to law students and practitioners present.

GAR Live: Africa 2023

Ms. Clémence Assou represented MIAC at GAR Live: Africa 2023. This event themed “(Dis)unity, sustainable development, and international arbitration” was organised on 29 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya by the Global Arbitration Review.

Inaugural workshop of the Mauritius Arbitration Academy

On 16 February 2024, MIAC hosted the inaugural workshop of the Mauritius Arbitration Academy in its Port Louis Waterfront facilities. The focus of the workshop was on the initial stages of the arbitral process including: (i) the drafting of arbitration agreements; (ii) the drafting of notices of arbitration and responses; (iii) the appointment of arbitrators; (iv) the role of appointing authorities in the constitution of arbitral tribunals; and (v) the drafting of Terms of Appointments and Procedural Orders No.1. Participants gained insights into the legal and practical aspects of arbitration, thanks to the expertise shared by Andrew Skudder and Vandana Beessoo, Co-Chairs of the Mauritius Arbitration Academy, Balla Galma, Representative of the Permanent Court of Arbitration – Mauritius Office, and Clémence Assou, MIAC Registrar and PCA Legal Counsel.

Africa Construction Law (ACL) Conference 2024

In June 2024, MIAC extended its support to the Africa Construction Law (ACL) Conference, 2024 held in Nairobi, Kenya and virtually, themed “Building Resilience in Africa’s Construction Sector”, sharing perspectives in the context of four panels revolving around the topics ‘Supporting the Arbitral Tribunal’ and ‘Controlling the Arbitral Award’.

African International Arbitration Competition 2024

Throughout late 2023 to early June 2024, MIAC supported the third edition of the African International Arbitration Competition (AIAC) organised by the African Academy of International Law Practice (AAILP). This edition of the AIAC focused on the Investment Protocol of the African Continental Trade Area (AfCFTA) and incorporated a reference to the MIAC Arbitration Rules in its case study.

After the exchange of written submissions, six teams were qualified for the oral phase of the competition which took place on 10 June 2024. The teams selected for the oral phases of the competition brilliantly represented the following African universities: the University of Mauritius (Mauritius); the University of Carthage (Tunisia); Cheikh Hamidou Kane Digital University (UN-CHK) (Senegal); and Thomas Sankara University (Burkina Faso).

The semi-finals and final took place in a hybrid format at MIAC’s Port Louis Waterfront facilities and online. The AAILP and MIAC had the honor of welcoming an exceptional jury composed of eminent arbitrators to decide between the students including: Jean Baptiste Harelimana (President of the AAPDI), Yaye Diabaté (General Secretary of the AAPDI), Affef Ben Mansour (AAPDI), Clémence

Assou (MIAC), Babou Diankha (Jus Mundi), Anne-Sophie Jullienne, Fatma Abdallah, Solomon Ebere, Yeshnah Rampall, Ali Adamjee, Baptiste Rigau, MCI Arb, Mushtaq Namdarkhan, Natasha Peter, Catherine Maia, Francesca NGAHANE, Bilshan Nursimulu, Shaista Sulliman, Karim M'ziani, Rajeev Sharma-Fokeer, Sharmilla Bhima MCI Arb.

Two teams qualified for the final: the team from Cheikh Hamidou Kane Digital University (UN-CHK) (Senegal) and the “Juris Carthago” team from the University of Carthage (Tunisia). The team of Cheikh Hamidou Kane Digital University (UN-CHK) won the competition with the prize for best speaker awarded to Ms. Awa Sagnang.

▪ **Challenges faced by MIAC during the financial year 2023-2024**

The significant budgetary restrictions imposed on MIAC have hindered its ability to finalise important projects which were due for completion during the financial year 2023-2024. This includes the fitting out of a second arbitration suite at its Port Louis Waterfront facilities and the organisation of the fourth edition of the Mauritius International Arbitration Conference.

In addition, MIAC continues to face the following challenges:

- In the domestic sector, a reluctance of parties to avail of alternative dispute settlement because of inter alia a misconception that court proceedings are necessarily cheaper, and without regard to the counterbalancing advantages of arbitration (including speed and efficiency).
- In the international sector, the perception that: o MIAC is a new institution, with some initial confusion caused by the transition from LCIA-MIAC to the independent MIAC (a confusion increased by attempts from domestic competitors to seek to portray MIAC as defunct).
- The travel links between Mauritius and the African continent and between Mauritius and the Indian subcontinent are not sufficiently developed to make travel to Mauritius for dispute resolution proceedings convenient.
- The time lag inherent in the emergence of cases under the MIAC Arbitration Rules 2018, caused largely by the time lag between the inclusion of MIAC arbitration clauses in contracts and disputes arising thereunder.

- The proliferation or rebranding of other arbitral institutions on the African continent (including Mauritius) following Mauritius' ground-breaking efforts commenced in 2008, which has increased competition locally and internationally. In that respect, Mauritius and MIAC should look to build on their first-mover advantage and fully regain the momentum which it had built up to 2018 (when MIAC separated from the LCIA).

- **Proposals to increase efficiency**

As MIAC advances towards its strategic goals, the institution will experience an increased level of activity, including administering cases under the MIAC Arbitration Rules 2018 and the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules; organising hearings at its hearing facility; organising more events to bring together key arbitration stakeholders, undertaking more training activities, and organising panels on hot topics in arbitration at its hearing facility. These activities will in due course necessitate a larger Secretariat comprising highly qualified staff in order to increase efficiency.

PART II

MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Procurement and Supply Section

The Procurement Section at the Attorney General's Office is responsible for acquiring goods, services and works from external suppliers to meet the office's needs, ensuring that they are acquired efficiently, at the best possible price, with minimal risk and adhering to rules and regulations.

This Section is also supported by the e-procurement system (e-PS), which is a web-based application, hosted at the Government Online Centre. The system enables public bodies and suppliers to electronically conduct procurement proceedings. The e-procurement platform covers every stage from the identification of a requirement, through the tendering process, to award of the contract. The system is a means to curb malpractices and promote fair competition from both local and international bidders.

Overview of Procurement Exercise carried out at AGO during Financial Year 2023-2024 is tabled as follows:

| SN | DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 | Tenders launched above Rs.100,000 | 8 |
| 2 | Procurement activities less than Rs.100,000 up to a maximum of Rs.500,000 | Informal Quotation: 14 Others (by phone): 44 (approx.) |
| 3 | Goods Form/ Purchase order transacted | 221 |
| 4 | Overseas Procurement effected | Nil |
| 5 | Items in Warehouse (Consolidated) | 66 (approx.) |
| 6 | Yearly Issues | 1700 (approx.) |

Registries

The AGO operates with 3 main registries namely the Confidential Registry, the Open Registry and the Civil Registry. The Registries act in a dynamic capacity to assist Officers in their respective duties. In the recent years, the Registry system in this Office has undergone a revampment and a Central Archive system has been implemented to facilitate access as well as safe keeping of files and documents. Both the Registry system and the Central Archives system are already in full operation.

Confidential Registry

Confidential Registry is the main registry of the Attorney General's Office. Its main role is to manage information, mails and documents that need to be handled in a secure and timely manner. Its main tasks consist of recording and circulating all incoming mails and documents; proper keeping, maintenance and security of files; storing, retrieving and tracking of records; and despatch of documents and/or files.

However, the Confidential Registry does not operate without its challenges. In view of the limited space available and the constant increase in the number of files, the said Registry has to struggle in order to store closed files. The new Registry system has encountered few issues which remain yet to be resolved. The Registry is in the process of scanning of all documents/correspondences/files received in line with the implementation of the Business Continuity Plan. Due to time constraints and load of work, it has been quite hectic for the section to properly carry out its scanning tasks.

However, despite increase in its work load throughout the year, the Confidential Registry has been able to promptly fulfil its tasks and has gradually started the scanning process.

The Confidential Registry has dealt with approximately 4981 incoming mails/ requests for advice/ correspondence and approximately 3375 outgoing correspondence during the financial year July 2023 to June 2024.

Adequate office space and additional staff remains a challenge for the Confidential Registry in order to maintain a proper functioning environment with regard to its functions and objectives.

Open Registry

The Open Registry deals with the following types of files:

- Administration files - All files which relate to the management of the Attorney General's Office;
- Land Acquisition files – Acquisition of land by the Government for projects and involves drawing up of deeds by a Notary Public;
- Board of Assessment files – Land acquisition cases referred to a Board of assessment for determination of fair amount of compensation;
- Citizenship files from the Prime Minister's Office – Advice tendered by law officers in connection with application for Registration as Citizen of Mauritius/ Renunciation of Mauritian Citizenship/ Resumption of Mauritian Citizenship/ Adoption/ Naturalization;
- Minor Petition files – Petitions/complaints received from the public/institutions.

The main challenge faced by the Open Registry has been that of shortage of staff. Since, there were only 2 staff posted in the section, it was difficult to manage workload, mainly when there were urgent issues to handle and/or there were absences.

Additional full-time staff would be of great help to the overall smooth running of the section, especially in connection with providing additional administrative support and to help with the scanning process. It is to be noted that the section has welcomed an additional MSO in June 2024, hence the work load is now being shared more effectively among the 3 staff in the Open Registry.

The table below provides the number of files that has been dealt with by the Open Registry for the period July 2023 to June 2024:

| SN | File Type | Number of files |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Land Acquisition | |
| | - Ongoing files | 1857 |
| | - New File | 241 |
| 2 | PMO (Citizenship) | 380 |
| 3 | Board of Assessment | 120 |
| 4 | Minor Petition and Miscellaneous | 61 |
| | Total Number of Files | 2834 |

Civil Registry

The Civil Registry contributes enormously and plays a crucial role in the development of the Attorney General's Office into a Centre of Excellence for legal services. Due to the technical nature of its work, the Civil Registry consists of staff of Legal Assistant Cadre as well as Management Support Officers in dealing with different issues pertaining to civil litigation involving the Government and its agencies. The Civil Registry is organised into various parts in relation to different civil Court cases such as –

(a) Cases before Supreme Court –

- (i) Complaint with Summons;
- (ii) Motion cases –
 - (A) Application for Judicial Review;
 - (B) Application before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council;
 - (C) Cases under Rivers' and Canals' Act; and
 - (D) Election Petition.
- (iii) Chamber cases;
- (iv) Appeal cases;
- (vii) Cases before Mediation Division;
- (viii) Cases before Commercial Court.

(b) Mutual Legal Assistance cases –

- (i) evidence gathering by way of testimony/production of documents;
- (ii) extradition; and
- (iii) service of legal documents.

(c) Ministère Public cases –

- (i) Family Court cases; and
- (ii) Child Abduction cases.

(d) Intermediate Court Cases;

(e) District Court Cases;

(f) Children's Court cases;

(g) Cases before Tribunals –

- (i) Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal;

- (ii) Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal;
 - (iii) Assessment Review Committee;
 - (iv) Employment Relations Tribunal;
 - (v) Equal Opportunities Commission;
 - (vi) Equal Opportunities Tribunal;
 - (vii) Independent Review Panel;
 - (viii) Valuation Tribunal;
 - (ix) Sports Tribunal;
 - (x) Commission for Conciliation and Mediation; and
 - (xi) Fair Rent Tribunal.
- (h) Industrial Court cases.

Duties performed by officers of the Legal Assistant Cadre in the Civil Registry are as follows –

- (a) opening of files;
- (b) filing of documents in files in possession of law officers;
- (c) despatch;
- (d) communication of legal documents (by way of dispatch/service by Usher) to all parties;
- (e) preparing/depositing/retrieving requests for proceedings/transcripts from all Courts;
- (f) printing/filing/processing of proceedings received by email from Supreme Court;
- (g) preparing draft list of witnesses/writ of sub-poena/Notice Tender of Evidence/Documents intended to be produced/Bill of Costs under instructions of Counsel/Attorneys;
- (h) preparing list of pending litigations where parastatal bodies are involved;
- (i) performing outdoor duties such as –
 - (i) depositing/retrieving documents to/from Ushers' Office;
 - (ii) depositing request/retrieve/file documents at Supreme Court/Intermediate Court/District Court/Industrial Court; and
 - (iii) accompanying officers of Ministries/Departments/Parastatal Bodies for swearing of affidavits.

- (j) deponing in Courts;
- (k) attending to several phone calls (internal/external);
- (l) scanning of files; and
- (m) weeding exercise.

The Civil Registry deals with more than 200 files daily, comprising of an average of 150 incoming files, 60 dispatches and others.

During the period July 2023 - June 2024, the Civil Registry has dealt with approximately 2,861 as tabled below:

| File Type | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Supreme Court | 1205 |
| Intermediate Court IC files | 81 |
| District Court DC file | 50 |
| Industrial Court IND Files | 28 |
| Children's Court Children's Court Files under DC | 1 |
| Parastatal Bodies | 376 |
| Tribunals | 125 |
| Ministère Public | 360 |
| Child Abduction | 1 |
| Mutual Legal Assistance | 89 |
| Extradition | 5 |
| Judicial Committee of the Privy Council | 22 |
| Files relating to list of pending litigations involving parastatal bodies | 60 |
| Death Gratuity files | 333 |
| Service of document to Island of Rodrigues | 135 |

Challenges

The Office is constantly concerned with recruitment due to the need for a stable level of workforce to meet the increasing volume of work. Although at some point in time, in order to deal with acute shortage of staff, the Office was provided with Service To Mauritius (STM) interns, nevertheless recruitment of short-term staff on contractual basis, only assist the department in a limited aspect. In addition, due to the technicality of its functions, new staff have to be trained again and again. Furthermore, adequate office space has been requested in order to meet the increase in the number of files. These challenges become more difficult to resolve since the premises remain constant while an increase in resources are needed to meet the functions of the Civil Registry.

In order to remedy the challenges of this department, it is proposed that: -

- (a) space be provided for additional human resource and for storage of running files;
and
- (b) the Civil Registry be fully staffed for the smooth running of the Office.

The Mutual Legal Assistance Registry

The Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Registry processes all requests for Mutual Legal Assistance between a Foreign State and an international criminal Tribunal in relation to serious criminal offences including corruption and money laundering. The Central Authority under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters Act is the Attorney General who may make and receive requests for Mutual Legal Assistance. The types of assistance sought are:

- Have evidence taken, a statement or information taken by means of technology;
- Obtain and execute a search warrant or other lawful instrument, authorising a search for things which may be relevant to the proceedings and if found seize them;
- Locate and restrain any property reasonably believed to be the proceeds of a serious offence;
- Transmit any evidence, statement report, information whether in original or a certified copy.

Activities of the MLA Registry

The MLA unit is responsible for channelling of all files pertaining to Mutual Legal Assistance and these are outlined below: -

- (a) To process application for service of documents;
- (b) To process application for extradition proceedings;
- (c) To seek for evidence gathering order before the judge in chambers in relation to Civil, Commercial or Criminal matter which is pending before Court or Tribunal. Following the execution of the request, evidence produced to the Court is handed over to the Central Authority for transmission to the Requesting State;
- (d) To obtain the testimony of witness;
- (e) To help in the implementation and enforcement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), International Standards on anti- money Laundering;
- (f) Updating of Statistics – Conduct monthly reconciliation with respective department; and
- (g) Updating all relevant Eastern and South Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) templates and maintain records for all incoming and outgoing correspondences from/to all departments concerned.

Achievements

The table below shows the total number of files dealt with by the MLA Registry during the financial year 2023 to 2024.

| Types of files | July 2023 to June 2024 |
|----------------|------------------------|
| MLA | 120 |
| Extradition | 5 |

Meeting target and goals due to effective planning

- The tallying of records with different stakeholders has been successful.
- Updating of statistics has been done according to the expected time frame.
- Requests have been processed as efficiently as possible.
- Regular meetings conducted to discuss ongoing matters, reviewing progress. This has proved to be very beneficial as issues are addressed promptly.

Challenges

- (a) Lack of Human Resource.
 - Limited manpower has led to a lot of issues and staff had to cope with stress related to workload.
- (b) Inadequate infrastructure and space.
 - The continued effect of lack of space may lead to inefficiencies, reduced quality of service and may also hinder the smooth running of the unit.
- (c) Following the relocation of the Supreme Court to the New Court House, obtaining Judges Order or Court Proceedings from the Court Officers is difficult in view of the new protocol which has been put in place there for the Officer of the MLA to get access to the Judge.
- (d) Lots of time are wasted in waiting for swearing of affidavits in view of the fact both public and private officers are given equal treatment.

The Law Revision Unit

The law Revision Unit has been set up by the Revision of Laws Act.

Its main functions are –

- (a) to prepare revised editions and Supplements;
- (b) do all other things that are incidental or conducive to the proper performance of its functions;
- (c) to assist the officers of the Drafting Unit in drafting Bills, Regulations, Proclamations, etc;
- (d) to format Bills, Regulations., Proclamations, etc;
- (e) to assist the law officers in looking for materials for Reply/ drafting Reply to Parliamentary Questions;
- (f) to proofread Regulations, Proclamations etc. and give strike off for the purpose of publication in the Gazette;

- (g) to update the law books of the Law Revision Unit (which constitute the Master copy and basis upon which Court cases are handled and advice tendered to the Government);
- (h) to update laws on the Intranet; and
- (i) to assist in consolidating, updating and revising the Acts of Parliament (Revised Laws of Mauritius) and the Regulations (Revised Subsidiary Legislation of Mauritius).

Its main powers, as specified in section 5 of the Revision of Laws Act, are as follows –

- (1) The Law Revision Unit may, in the preparation of a revised edition –
 - (a) omit an enactment or a part of an enactment which has been expressly or impliedly repealed or has become spent or obsolete by reason of its being in the nature of a transitional provision or otherwise;
 - (b) omit –
 - (i) the preamble to any enactment;
 - (ii) the enacting clause to any enactment;
 - (iii) any provision prescribing the date of the commencement of an enactment;
 - (iv) all portions, other than the titles, of an enactment which is of a private nature; and
 - (v) the subscriptum to an enactment.
 - (c) consolidate, with all necessary consequential changes, enactments in parimateria;
 - (d) reorder or renumber any part of an enactment;
 - (e) alter the form or arrangement of any enactment—
 - (i) by transferring words;
 - (ii) by combining it, in whole or in part, with another enactment; or
 - (iii) by creating divisions in an enactment.
 - (f) arrange enactments in any sequence or grouping;
 - (g) add or alter a title or short title to an enactment;
 - (h) supply, alter or omit marginal notes;
 - (i) supply, alter or omit tables of contents;
 - (j) correct cross references;

- (k) shorten or simplify the phraseology of an enactment;
- (l) correct grammatical, typographical and similar errors in an enactment and for that purpose make additions, omissions or alterations;
- (m) make such formal alterations as to names, localities, offices, procedures and otherwise as may be necessary to bring an enactment into conformity with the circumstances existing at the date of the coming into force of the revised edition; and
- (n) do all such other things relating to form and method which appear necessary for the revision of an enactment.

Challenges and achievements of the Unit during the financial year July 2023-June 2024

This Office has been working upon the project of the online Revised Laws of Mauritius and Revised Subsidiary Legislation of Mauritius. Its complexity has led to a considerable delay in its readiness. Further, the Law Revision Unit has encountered acute shortage of human resources during that period. However, despite same, the Unit strived hard to manage the project and cope with its usual routine such as formatting Bills/Regulations, etc, updating and consolidating laws in the law books and on Intranet, handling Parliamentary Questions, handling files to be processed to Cabinet Office, proof reading and hence giving strike off for the publication of Regulations, Proclamations, etc. in the Gazette.

The web portal will shortly be ready for launching as it is nearly finalised.

The laws will be available to every user on the web portal of the Office where it could be viewed, downloaded, copied and printed. Also, the laws can be accessed not only on computers and laptops, but also on other electronic devices such as tablets and smartphones.

Proposals to increase efficiency of Unit

The online laws system adds greater responsibility on the Unit as it will require lots of precision so that erroneous version of laws is not uploaded. This may otherwise lead to wrong advice being tendered and Court cases being wrongly decided. Requests for adequate human resources, logistics and office space have been made to ensure that updated laws are provided to users without undue delay.

During the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024, the Law Revision Unit has worked on the following:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Bills prepared | 44 |
| Bills introduced | 23 |
| Bills passed (Acts gazetted) | 19 |
| Regulations prepared | 280 |
| Regulations gazetted | 208 |
| Proclamations prepared | 33 |
| Proclamations gazetted | 51 |
| Reprints prepared | - |
| Reprints gazetted | - |

Law Firm Unit

By virtue of the Law Practitioners Act 1984 (hereafter referred to as LPA) and Law Practitioners (Registration of Law Firms, Foreign Law Firms, Joint Law Ventures and Foreign Lawyers) Regulations 2008 (hereafter referred to as Regulations), the Attorney General has been vested with the authority to approve and renew registration in respect of Law Firms, Local Office of Foreign Law Firms, Joint Law Ventures and Foreign Lawyers as well as the cancellation and suspension of these registrations and renewals.

All the above-mentioned applications are addressed to the Legal Secretary who has the responsibility to register: -

- a) the name and address of every Law Firm, Local Office of a Foreign Law Firm, Joint Law Venture and Foreign Lawyer;
- b) the name and address of every holder of a Global Legal Advisory Services licence;

- c) any amendment in the constitution, objects, or the name of a law firm;
- d) any amendment or alteration in the name of a Foreign Law Firm, a Joint Law Venture or a Foreign Lawyer; and
- e) whether any Law Firm, Local Office of a Foreign Law Firm, Joint Law Venture or Foreign Lawyer has ceased to provide legal services, or has been wound up, or suspended, or struck off.

The Legal Secretary also has the responsibility to cause to be published in the Gazette a list of –

- (a) Law Firms, Law Practitioners, Legal Consultants and Foreign Lawyers providing legal services for the Law Firms, Local Office of Foreign Law Firms and Joint Law Ventures; and
- (b) the holders of a Global Legal Advisory Services licence.

With regard to the holders of the Global Legal Advisory Services licence, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) must communicate an updated list of holders as soon as reasonably practicable to the Legal Secretary.

The Legal Secretary also receives applications under the LPA for authorisation to use the words “Legal”, “Law”, “Law Firm”, “Chambers” and “Legal Consultancy” which are processed and submitted to the Attorney-General for consideration.

The Law Firm/ AML/CFT Unit assists the Legal Secretary and the Attorney-General in respect of the abovementioned applications under the LPA. Moreover, the Unit assists in processing complaints against law practitioners.

By virtue of section 9 of the LPA, regarding swearing-in of a prospective barrister, attorney or notary, applicants have to be presented to the Supreme Court or the Registrar, as the case may be, by a law officer of this Office. In this context, the Unit assist in the verification of applications in line with the LPA. Moreover, details pertaining to the applications are recorded in a database by the Unit.

The Law Firm/ AML/CFT Unit also assists in providing inputs in respect of Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) matters to the Eastern Southern African Anti-

Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and relevant institutions in as much as AGO is a member of the:

- AML/CFT Core Group;
- AML/CFT Sub-Committees such as the Immediate Outcome 2 Sub-committee (IO2) and Immediate Outcome 11 Sub-committee (IO11); and
- Sub-Committees under the Interagency Coordination Committee (ICC) such as Technical Sub-committee on Coordination (TSC), Technical Sub-Committee on Supervision (TSS) on an ad-hoc basis in relation to legal issues and Technical Sub-committee on Legal and Regulatory Requirements Training and Outreach (TSL).

Additionally, the AGO chairs the IO11, IO2 and TSL Sub-Committees.

Staff member of Law Firm/ AML/CFT Unit are currently participating in the National Risk Assessment process.

As Co-chair of the TSL Sub-Committee, the AGO is responsible for organizing training and outreach sessions for staff and licensees of AML/CFT Supervisory bodies. The Law Firm/ AML/CFT Unit assists in regard to same.

For the Financial Year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, there are 59 registered licensees (excluding foreign lawyers) under the purview of the Attorney General's Office, which comprises of the following:

1. Law Firms: 54
2. Local Office of Foreign Law Firms: 2
3. Joint Law Ventures: 3
4. Foreign Lawyers: 14

Further details are provided in the following tables:

| | 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 | Total |
|---|---|--|--------------|
| New Applications for registration approved | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| New Applications for registration rejected | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Renewals approved | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Renewal for registration rejected | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancellation/Deregistration of License | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Change of Name | NIL | 1 | 1 |
| Authorisation to use the words “Legal”, “Law” “Law Firm”, “Chambers” and “Legal Consultancy” Approved | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Authorisation to use the words “Legal”, “Law” “Law Firm”, “Chambers” and “Legal Consultancy” Rejected | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Complaints received against law practitioners | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Miscellaneous Files | 3 | 4 | 7 |

| | 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 | 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 | Total |
|-----------|---|--|--------------|
| Outreach | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trainings | 7 | 3 | 10 |

Challenges faced by the department during the financial year July 2023 – June 2024

- Lack of space for storage of files.
- No digital registry system to facilitate incomings, movement of files, record keeping and statistics.
- The unit comprises of 1 permanent staff, 2 staff on secondment, 3 STM interns, and 2 MSOs only whereas it previously comprised of 1 permanent staff, 4 staff on secondment and 6 STM interns
- Lack of staff for the smooth day-to-day running of the Unit as all permanent staff are usually taken up with full-day meetings and trainings.

Achievements of the department during the financial year July 2023 – June 2024

- The Unit is assisting in carrying out Risk Management Exercise for the Office.
- As Co-chair of the TSL Sub-Committee, the AGO has assisted in organising Joint Outreach and training sessions under the aegis of the Interagency Coordination Committee both virtually and physically.
- Staffs of the Law Firm/AML/CFT Unit have developed their skills and enhanced their knowledge in relation to AML/CFT matters especially in relation to emerging trends such as Virtual Asset and Digital Onboarding.
- From 2nd September 2022, Mauritius is now in compliance or largely compliant with all 40 FATF Recommendations. This Office, through the Law Firm/ AML/CFT Unit, has contributed to this success.

- Staff of the Law Firm/ AML/CFT are participating in the National Risk Assessment process related to AML/CFT.

Proposals to increase the efficiency of the department

- Adequate space for storage of files.
- Additional permanent staff required to ensure smooth running of operations.
- Creation of a digital registry system to facilitate incomings, movement of files, record keeping and statistics.
- Creation of an online platform for registrations under the LPA.

Curatelle Section

The Office of the Curator of Vacant Estates (“the Curator”) is created under Section 3 of the Curatelle Act 1973 (“the Act”). The Curator can only act on the authority of a Vesting Order issued by the Judge in Chambers after all procedures prescribed by the Act have been completed, that is on production of an affidavit to the effect that diligent enquiries have been made by department with a view to ascertain that an estate is vacant.

The Vacant Estates comprise of namely Vacant Succession, Unclaimed Property and Absentees which have been defined under Part III of the Act as follows viz -

(1) Vacant successions – Section 9 of the Act

- (i) Where a person dies intestate possessing property in Mauritius without leaving any heir in Mauritius, his succession for the purpose of the Act is deemed to be a vacant succession.
- (ii) Where a person disposes part of his property by way of a will and dies in Mauritius without leaving any heir in Mauritius to apprehend the undisposed property, his succession as regards the undisposed property is deemed to be a vacant succession.

(2) Unclaimed property – Section 10 of the Act

- (i) Where the owner of a property in Mauritius cannot be ascertained, for the purpose of the Act, that property shall be deemed to be unclaimed property.
- (ii) Where a debtor has not been able to trace his creditor as so provided by the procedure laid down in the Act, the debt amount shall be deemed to be unclaimed property.

(3) Absentees – Section 12 of the Act

Where a person who entitled to property in Mauritius is not lawfully represented in Mauritius or has legal representative who is not empowered to exercise any right in relation to that property, he shall for the purpose of the Act be deemed to be an absentee.

The properties forming part of the vacant estates are administered and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Curatelle Fund

The Curatelle Fund is established under Section 19 of the Act whereby it is provided that any money vested in the Curator shall be paid by him to the Accountant-General to be credited to a fund to be known as the Curatelle Fund, which money shall be paid out the Fund only by order of the Curator. The Curator shall administer the Curatelle Funds until same is handed over to the entitled person (s) or remitted to the Accountant General.

Divesting Order/Handing Over

Divesting Order:

Where a person claims that he is entitled to administer any property comprised in a vacant estate vested in the Curator, he may apply to a Judge for an order divesting the Curator of the administration of that property. Such an order is known as a divesting order.

An application for a divesting order shall be made by summons calling upon the Curator to show cause why the order should not be made.

Handing Over:

The Curator may also hand over any property vested in him to the real owner or to his agent and proxy upon payment of Government's Commission.

Prescription of Vacant Estates

In the absence of any divesting order or handing over, a vacant estate shall become the property of the Government of Mauritius by prescription within 20 years of the date of the Vesting Order unless there is an interruption or suspension of the prescription in any manner as so provided under the Code Civil Mauricien.

Inscription and Government Commission

The Government of Mauritius shall have a privilege on the property composed in any vacant estate, which privilege shall rank immediately after the privilege for judicial costs. The Curator shall therefore forthwith after being vested with a vacant estate take a general inscription over the immovables of the Vacant Estate to secure payment of any commission in favour of the Government of Mauritius. The said commission can only be erased by the Conservator of Mortgages on receipt notice from the Curator to the effect that the commission has been paid or no commission is payable.

A commission of 3% is taken on the value of any property other than money whereas a commission of 5% is taken on any money which accrues to any estate vested with the Curator.

The Curatelle Fund is termed as a restricted fund which cannot be used for any investment purposes.

Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Curatelle section are prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) and the Curatelle Department had for the first time adopted all IPSASs for the preparation of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

It is the responsibility of the management of the Curatelle section to design and implement good internal controls which are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

“La gestion tutélaire”

Additionally, the Curator also supervises and controls “la gestion tutélaire” of the estates belonging to minors or persons of age vested in him by the Judge in Chambers in virtue of the Code Civil Mauricien.

The Curator must constantly have a “regard” on how the appointed guardian is administering the properties of and the person under tutelle.

In that perspective, the Curatelle section deals massively with the guardian for constant follow ups and requests. The Judge in Chambers can at any point of time order an inquiry be carried out in any ongoing case as regards the “gestion tutélaire”.

Challenges faced by the section during the financial year July 2023– June 2024

- (a) The volume of new applications has increased and it has been suggested that a technological platform be put in place in order to retrieve data easily as regards the status of applications. Proposal for a digitalisation of the Curatelle Section has also been made;
- (b) The Finance Section has stated that the duty of updating accounting ledgers rest upon the staff in the Curatelle section, hence it is proposed that adequate training be provided accordingly.
- (c) Due to the high volume of files, storage of physical files is becoming tedious, the more so since the office is sharing space with Change of Name Section and Confidential Registry.

Achievements of the section during the financial year July 2023 – June 2024

The Curatelle section has handled the following files -

| | Year 2023-2024 | Year 2022-2023 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vacant Successions | 22 | 18 |
| Unclaimed Property (Insurance Policy Holders) | 1 | 4 |
| Absentees | 69 | 34 |
| Non-Citizens Property Restriction Act | - | - |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Handing Over | 23 | 19 |
| Erasure of Inscription | 23 | 19 |
| File kept in abeyance | 13 | 23 |
| Court Cases | 367 | 320 |
| Tutelle Cases | 142 | 95 |

Proposals to increase the efficiency of the section.

- a. A digitalised system should be put in place for the Curatelle Department in order to monitor all the vacant estates with regard to their status and statistics. This will facilitate in providing information to auditors, attorneys, notaries and public.
- b. Provide more logistics to accommodate new staff and files.

Change of Name Section

The Change of Name section mainly deals with 4 types of Applications: Change of Name, Rectification, Tardy declaration of Birth/Death and Division in Kind.

Change of Name

As provided for in Section 55 of Civil Status Act 1981, any Mauritius Citizen may Petition the Attorney-General for leave to make any change to his Name. The Applicant has to provide good and sufficient grounds in support of the application. An application for change of name involves a processing fee and newspaper publication fees.

Furthermore, the Civil Status Act has been amended to include Section 5(1)(b)(vii) which enables the keeping of record of births, deaths and marriages in a foreign country. As such, any Mauritian Citizen born abroad and whose birth has been duly registered under this section of the law, may now petition to the Honourable Attorney General for leave to make any change to his name.

During the financial year 2023/2024, a total of 341 new applications for change of name have been received and 283 files have been processed.

Rectification

Rectification is usually done whenever a person is issued with a certified extract of birth/marriage/death entry, bearing an error, as compared to the original entry found in the registers of the Registrar of Civil Status. The application does not involve any costs.

Section 50 of the Civil Status Act sets out the procedure to be followed in respect of a rectification: -

- I. A Civil Status Officer or an interested party may make a written application to the Magistrate of the District in which the entry had been registered for an order authorising the Registrar of Civil Status to amend the entry;
- II. Upon receipt of the said application, the Magistrate will refer it to the Ministère Public for its conclusions;
- III. The Ministère Public will conduct an enquiry and following which the conclusion will be submitted to the Magistrate;
- IV. The Magistrate will either grant or refuse the application.

During the financial year 2023/2024, a total of 157 new applications for rectification have been received and 132 files have been processed.

Tardy Declaration of Birth/Death

When a birth or death is not declared within the prescribed delay as set out in the Civil Status Act, an application may be made to the magistrate in the district where the birth or death has taken place for an order authorising the Registrar Civil Status to tardily declare the birth or death.

Upon receipt of the said application, the Magistrate will refer it to the Ministère Public for its conclusions;

- The Ministère Public will conduct an enquiry;
- The Ministère Public will give its conclusions to the Magistrate; and
- The Magistrate will either grant or refuse the application.

During the financial year 2023/2024, a total of 62 new applications for tardy birth/death declarations have been received and 88 files have been processed.

Division in Kind

Division in Kind involves decision about how to distribute the assets of the deceased persons amongst their heirs. In matters involving minors and disagreement about sharing procedures, files are referred by the Honourable Master and Registrar to the Attorney-General's Office for Conclusions of the Ministère Public.

- The Ministère Public will conduct an enquiry (including request for valuation report and social enquiry report)
- The Ministère Public will give its conclusions to the Honourable Master and Registrar.
- The Honourable Master and Registrar will either grant or refuse the application.

During the financial year 2023/2024, a total of 5 new applications in relation to division in kind have been received and 3 files have been processed.

Challenges faced during the year 2023-2024

Reduced storage space due to increasing pending number of files awaiting the submission of newspaper publications. The law does not prescribe any time frame for the submission of newspaper publications. As such, some Applicants may come up with their publications after more than a year.

Suggestions

Amendment in the law to include a time frame to submit the requested newspaper publications, failing which the application for change of name to be set aside.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Procurement and Supply Section

The Procurement Section at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is responsible for acquiring goods, services and works from external suppliers to meet the office's needs, ensuring that they are acquired efficiently, at the best possible price, with minimal risk and adhering to rules and regulations.

This Section is also supported by the e-procurement system (e-PS) is a web-based application, hosted at the Government Online Centre, that enables public bodies and suppliers to electronically conduct procurement proceedings. The e-procurement platform covers every stage from the identification of a requirement, through the tendering process, to award of the contract. The system is a means to can curb malpractices and promote fair competition from both local and international bidders.

Overview of Procurement Exercise carried out at ODPP during Financial Year 2023-2024 is tabled as follows:

| SN | DESCRIPTION | QTY |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 | Tenders launched above Rs. 100,000 | 6 |
| 2 | Procurement activities less than Rs. 100,000 up to a maximum of Rs. 500,000 | Informal Quotation 27 Others (by phone) 34 (Approx) |
| 3 | Goods Form 1 / Purchase Order transacted | 150 |
| 4 | Overseas Procurement effected | Nil |
| 5 | Items in Warehouse (Consolidated) | 60 |
| 6 | Yearly Issues | 1696 |

The Criminal Registry

The Criminal Registry at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) serves as a pivotal component in the administration of justice. It focuses on the management and oversight of criminal cases. The Registry is responsible for the comprehensive management of criminal cases from initiation to resolution. This includes maintaining detailed records, tracking the progress of cases, and ensuring that all necessary documentation is filed and processed in a timely manner. Maintaining accurate and up-to-date records are the core functions of the Registry. This involves the careful documentation of all criminal cases, including case files and court proceedings. The Registry ensures that these records are organised and accessible for review by legal professionals and relevant authorities. The Registry facilitates coordination between various entities within the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, the judiciary, and prosecutorial bodies. This collaboration helps streamline processes, improve communication, and ensure that all parties involved are informed about the status and details of cases.

The Registry is also responsible for managing access to criminal records and case information. It ensures that authorised individuals, such as legal professionals can access relevant information while safeguarding sensitive data to protect privacy and the integrity of investigations.

The Criminal Registry of the ODPP has made significant strides in recent years. Key achievements include:

1. Capacity Building

- The Registry has invested in training and development for its staff, enhancing their skills in case management and legal processes. This has contributed to higher standards of professionalism and efficiency within the office.

2. Streamlined Case Management

- The Registry has successfully modernised its case management processes through the adoption of advanced technology. This digital transformation has significantly improved case tracking, data accuracy, and the speed at which cases are processed, reducing backlog and expediting justice.

These achievements reflect the Registry’s commitment to advancing the criminal justice system, ensuring that it operates with greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The Criminal Registry of the ODPP faces several significant challenges that impact its effectiveness:

1. Resource Constraints

- Limited financial and human resources pose a significant challenge. Budget constraints can affect the ability to upgrade technology, hire additional staff, and provide comprehensive training, all of which are critical for maintaining an efficient and effective registry.

2. Interagency Coordination

- Effective coordination among various criminal justice agencies remains a challenge. Miscommunication or lack of cooperation between law enforcement entities, the judiciary and prosecutorial bodies can impede the smooth flow of information and complicate case management.

3. Data Management and Integration

- Managing and integrating vast amounts of data remains a significant challenge. Inconsistent data entry and system incompatibilities can lead to inefficiencies and inaccuracies in case tracking and record-keeping. Ensuring that all data is accurate and up-to-date is crucial for effective case management.

The number of files handled from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 are set out in the table below.

| File Type | 2023/2024 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| APPLICATION FOR DEPARTURE | 261 |
| AUTHORITY TO PROSECUTE | 31 |
| BAIL APPLICATIONS | 1291 |
| ICAC CASES | 49 |
| IPCC CASES | 8 |
| JUDICIAL ENQUIRY | 188 |
| APPLICATION FOR JUDGES ORDERS | 437 |
| PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY | 1 |
| MRA CASES | 25 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| OCCURRENCE BOOK | 5309 |
| POLICE MINUTE PAPER | 5095 |
| NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION | 1 |
| CORRESPONDENCES | 748 |
| BRIEFS | 869 |
| SUPREME COURT CASES: | 180 |
| APPEAL | 63 |
| MOTION | 45 |
| ASSIZES | 44 |
| COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL | 7 |
| JUDICIAL REVIEW | 1 |
| MISE EN DEMEURE | 1 |
| PRIVY COUNCIL | 0 |
| SUMMONS | 16 |

The Open/ Confidential Registry

The Open/Confidential Registry at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) deal with general administration matters as well as launching of tenders and performing follow-up actions.

The Open/Confidential registry provides control of records and presents several benefits, as follows:

- **Efficiency**
 - Record are better organised and located, therefore making them quickly retrievable, thereby facilitating ease of reference, eradicating staff frustrations and increasing productivity.
- **Consistency**
 - The existence of documented policies means that staff members execute action relative to records in a consistent manner.
- **Good Decision Making**
 - Staff members have ready access to all necessary records, they are able to make decisions with reference to precedent, context and eventualities.

- **Enhanced Image**
 - Improved efficiency and management enhance the image of the organisation for all stakeholders.
- **Ensures preservation of important records**
 - While not for everyday use or operational purposes, archival records contribute significantly to the construction of collective memory and cultural heritage.
- **Continuity**
 - Good records facilitate continuity on occasions when staff members leave the employment of the organisation. In the absence of records, staff members take their knowledge with them when they leave.

The Open/ Confidential Registry at the ODPP has dealt with 2680 incoming electronic mail and 2304 incoming letters during the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

Upon reception of same, the needful entries are made in the computer system prior to forwarding same to the DPP.

Certificate of Character Section

The Certificate of Character is an official document governed by the Certificate of Character Act.2012 (No.18/2012). A copy of same is usually requested in a number of instances such as employment, student visa, immigration purposes, marriage, medical treatment abroad, promotion exercise and others. It is an official document issued by the ODPP which states whether a person has previous convictions recorded against him/her.

The Certificate of Character department is responsible for the procession of Certificate of Character. The Department which is situated at the 1st Floor of Renganaden Seeneevassen Building operates under the aegis of the ODPP.

The Certificate of Character has been digitalised to complement the traditional manual application. The e-application for Certificate of Character is operational since 9th February 2023.

With this service, public can:

- apply online for a Certificate of Character from any place and at any time;
- effect payment online or at Police District Headquarters;
- print a copy at his end.

The number of applications received and processed from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 are:

| ISSUED ONLINE | RECEIVED ONLINE |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 24427 | 25920 |

| ISSUED OFFLINE | RECEIVED OFFLINE |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 74124 | 75735 |

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS

[A] IT UNIT at Attorney General's Office during the Financial Year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

During the Financial Year 2023-2024, the Attorney General's Office has embarked on another phase in the implementation of new digital initiatives to ensure a fully reliable future by embracing cutting edge technologies.

Several IT projects have been initiated during the course of the Financial Year 2023/2024 to cater for the future needs and prevent any sort of disruption in the digitalisation journey of the Attorney General's Office, namely:

- Acquisition of Mini Desktop
- Acquisition of Notebooks
- Acquisition of All-in-One Printers
- Upgrade of the Network Infrastructure
- Decommissioning of Windows Server 2003 and Migration to Windows Server 2019(Domain and File Servers)
- Revised Laws of Mauritius and Revised Subsidiary Legislation of Mauritius
- Replication of the current server infrastructure to the Government Online Centre

Achievements:

1. Procurement of IT Equipment:

The Attorney General's Office has successfully replaced approximately 40 laptops and 20 desktop computers to ensure smooth daily operations, addressing issues related to aging hardware. This proactive equipment replacement helps mitigate the risk of operational disruptions.

In addition, the replacement of most notebooks is planned for this fiscal year, marking a significant milestone in the IT equipment renewal process. Further, additional equipment such as photocopiers will be procured to meet the demands of preparing large bundles for Privy Council cases.

2. Upgrade of AGO LAN:

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Attorney General's Office will upgrade its local area network (LAN) to accommodate the growing number of staff and to prevent downtime, ensuring continuous operational efficiency.

3. Online Laws of Mauritius and Legislation Drafting Software:

The Online Laws of Mauritius platform is currently undergoing testing, with an expected launch by the end of 2024.

4. Replication of AGO Servers to the Government Cloud Environment (GOC):

Given the increasing complexity of cyber threats and the need for greater data protection, the AGO's current server infrastructure, while secure, would benefit from a more resilient environment. Replicating servers to the highly secure GOC will address operational vulnerabilities, particularly those caused by extreme weather, such as heavy rainfall, which can disrupt office activities. This transition to the GOC offers significant advantages, including enhanced security, regulatory compliance, and improved system reliability.

Current Challenges

1. Compliance Requirements

- Meeting evolving regulatory standards is becoming increasingly difficult with the current setup.

2. Scalability Issues

- The existing infrastructure struggles to efficiently scale to meet growing demands.

3. Disaster Recovery

- Limited disaster recovery capabilities pose risks to business continuity in the event of unforeseen incidents.

Benefits of Replicating to a Government Cloud Environment (GOC)

1. Enhanced Security

- GOC offers advanced security features, including multi-layered defenses, encryption, and continuous monitoring to safeguard sensitive data.

2. Regulatory Compliance

- GOC environments comply with various regulatory standards, ensuring full legal and regulatory adherence.

3. Scalability and Flexibility

- The cloud's superior scalability enables more efficient infrastructure management and expansion.

4. Cost Efficiency

- Leveraging the cloud reduces hardware maintenance, upgrade, and energy costs.

5. Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity

- GOC provides robust disaster recovery solutions, minimizing downtime and ensuring rapid recovery from disruptions.

Development of a new Software Ecosystem for AGO

Budget

The budget allocated for the aforementioned IT projects for the Financial Year 24/25 is Rs 2 million.

Way forward

The proposal to develop a new software ecosystem to meet the digital needs of the Law Firm and Curatelle was initially planned for FY 24/25, with an estimated budget request of Rs 20 million during the budget exercise. However, funding was not allocated for the current financial year. Consequently, a revised proposal will be submitted in the next budget cycle (FY 25-26), with the objective of

advancing the AGO's operations through digital transformation. This includes enhancing the existing electronic Document Management System, which was established a few years ago for document scanning. The aim is to fully digitise manual files, enabling online retrieval and addressing several issues currently faced with the manual filing system.

[B] IT UNIT at Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions during the Financial Year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

The IT Unit comprises of two (2) IT Officers, who provide technical support/service to following units:

- Counsels
- Attorneys
- Support/General Staff posted in different Units
 - Library;
 - ODPP Registry;
 - Administration;
 - Procurement and Supply;
 - Human Resources;
 - Certificate of Character;
 - Finance;
 - Open/Confidential Registry;
 - Communication;
 - LAW Research;
 - ODPP Rodrigues.

Daily main activities performed by the IT UNIT:

- Provide technical support to all IT related equipment (PCs, Laptops, Printers, Photocopy Machines, IP Phones) to above mentioned units;
- Perform database, network and systems administration and maintenance and set up and manage users, groups and roles;
- Commission ICT equipment;
- Advise the Office on any ICT Related matters;
- Operate computer systems, perform backups and keep records thereof;
- Perform website updates as and when required;
- Assist the Office in implementing ICT Projects and provide project management services;
- Adhoc reports for Statistical purposes to Management and Statistic Unit
- Attend to PQs – as and when required.

Achievements

. On Line Certificate of Character

The Office of Director of Public Prosecutions ambioned to transform the existing Application for Certificate of Character (COC) services into a transactional service which is end-to-end, paperless and do not require physical travel or office hopping. COC project made provision of an Online Service, which are easy to use for people with varying abilities such as cross-agency collaboration, interoperability and data sharing between systems.

- Backend Application Software for Certificate of Character;
- E-Service of Online Application of Certificate character and integration with payment module and single sign-on with MAUPASS;
- Dashboard for Police DHQs, Crime Record Office and DPP's Office;
- Validation of forms (applicant details) using information highway;
- Allow public users to download soft copy of the certificate of character;
- Allow any institutions/companies/individual validate the certificate of character application.

Status – The system is operational since February 2023.

The system is being enhanced with 3Dsecure and IPS for e payment service.

New ICT Projects 2023/2024

1. OnLine Brief Application

The present process for application of Brief is manual. Applicant either calls in person with an application form or send letter by fax or post. Brief for requested case is then delivered upon payment.

With the proposed solution, applicants will be registered on line and be eligible to receive requested brief on line. Payment will also be online using government payment gateway for the e-service.

Status - The project is currently in User Acceptance Testing phase 2 and will soon go live.

2. LAW Library Management System

This Office intends to have a library management system for The Rajsoomer Lallah Law Library.

Objectives of the Project:

- Manage effectively large volumes of library resources of existing and future documents;
- Tracking of library resources;
- Easy access to reports.

Benefits of the system:

- Allows fast querying/searching of library resources;
- Easy recording and issuance (Using barcode);
- Online access to ODPP Staff;
- Preserves critical documents for future reference (scanned);
- Reduces use of paper – Scanning of Library resources (books/magazines/loose-leaf/reports/audio-video);
- Better efficiency and consistency;
- Centralized Management;
- Reliability;
- Less time consuming and error prone.

Status – Bidding Exercise under process

3. Enhancement Registry System into an eCase Management System

The Office of Director of Public Prosecutions intends to enhance and fully computerize its Registry System by implementing an e-Case Management System (E-CMS), so as to enable them to effectively manage large volume of documents and streamline the flow of data across different sections/departments.

The e-CMS should include security features to ensure that documents in the system are accurate, complete and of sufficient quality to meet the legal and others requirement. The e-CMS should also act as a repository of digitally signed documents and emails.

Objectives of the project:

- Digitalise all Registries (Open, Confidential and Criminal) through e-Case Management System;
- Create a central repository to important documents available for reference,
- Manage effectively large volume of existing and future documents;
- Provide of mechanism of monitoring progress within a workflow;
- Streamline the flow of data for several offices, sections, units and departments;
- Maintain high availability centralized repository with adequate inbuilt redundancy to ensure resilience of key data;
- Restrict access to authorized persons by implementing appropriate controls; and
- Migrate existing hard copies of documents to the new system.

Outcome & Benefits:

The outcome of the project are as follows:

- existing processes related to the Registry System will be re-engineered and computerized accordingly through the e-CMS enabling:
 - better storage of documents (safe, secured and no subject to damage due to wear and tear because of frequent handling);
 - better accountability of tracing of incoming and outgoing;
 - no physical movement of files;
 - concurrent staffs of the organisation can use the files simultaneously.
- files and documents management (workflows) for departments/sections are computerized enabling:
 - online collaborative approach (allowed through discussion forum of system);
 - better management and organisation compliance achieved through implementation of workflow, user roles, user access and hierarchy.
- Moreover, ODPP intends to digitalise its physical repository of important documents, through a Scanning Unit. A Central Repository enabling:
 - a paperless environment (cost savings and environment friendly approach);

- effective operations (instant access of required files and information, no movement of physical files required);
- identified documents requiring electronic storage are stored within the e-CMS;
- the documents stored are safe, secure and easily retrievable;
- the Central Repository to interface with the e-CMS solution and to cater for future growth.

4. ODPP LAN Extension

- Partitioning works for new offices to accommodate new recruits at ODPP.

5. Upgrading of IT Equipment

- Replacing IT Equipment as they are outdated and have reached end of life.

Challenges

A. Additional Staff

- Officers in IT Unit are mandated to provide timely technical support to the department and approximately 20 interventions are received daily.
- However, time taken to solve any issue, depends on the nature of the technical issue reported.
- There is a need to have additional staff in the IT Unit to service the department in a timely manner and to ensure smooth running of computer systems.

B. Working Condition of the Unit

The Air Conditioning system is faulty and caused much inconvenience for the officers to work in such high temperature.

C. Digitalisation of the Public Sector

Government Policy is to digitalise all processes and become a citizen centric public body. However, to move towards a Digital Government, there are a lot of procedures and standards to be set up and followed. It is quite a complex and challenging task. However, with all

procedures rightly set in place and with the right stakeholders on board, it is possible with the means of ICT, namely, in terms of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address this challenging project.

It further needs to be noted that transforming Government Services with AI, and moving towards a Digital Government, demands lots of dedication from IT officers and users in order to successfully achieve this project.

PART III

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Financial Highlights – Dashboard

The Attorney General 's Office Vote -13 comprise of:

A- Office of the Solicitor General: Vote-13-1

B-Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: Vote-13-2

C- Office of the Parliamentary Counsel: Vote-13-3

A-Office of the Solicitor General

1. The Budgetary allocations for the Office of the Solicitor-General were Rs 332 Million, of which Rs 14.8 Million was for Capital Expenditure.

2. Total Expenditure for Financial Year 2023/24

| | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Expenditure | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Recurrent | 317.20 | 268.41 |
| Capital | 14.80 | 3.05 |
| Total | 332 | 271.46 |

3. Summary Statement of Expenditure by economic categories

| | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Details of Expenditure | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Allowance to Minister | 2.40 | 2.40 |
| Compensation of Employees | 158.40 | 147.59 |
| Goods and Services | 114.30 | 79.58 |
| Grants | 20.70 | 20.62 |
| Other Expenses | 21.40 | 18.22 |
| Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets | 14.80 | 3.05 |
| Total Expenditure | 332.00 | 271.46 |

4. Statement of Revenue

| Revenue | Expected | Actual |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Commission on Curatelle Deposits | 1 | 1.21 |
| Processing & Registration Fee for Law Practitioners | 0.9 | 2.23 |
| Fees for Change of Name Certificate | 0.5 | 0.32 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue (Sales of Goods & Services & Legal Costs) | 3.3 | 5.17 |
| Total Revenue | 5.7 | 8.93 |

5. Gender Classification

| Categories | Women | Men |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Top Management | 7 | 6 |
| Middle Management | 32 | 10 |
| Support & Others | 83 | 34 |
| Overall | 122 | 50 |

B. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

1. The Budgetary allocation for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions were Rs 190 Million, of which Rs 26.2 Million was for Capital expenditure.

2. Total Expenditure for Financial Year 2023/24

| Expenditure | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Recurrent | 163.80 | 154.44 |
| Capital | 26.2 | 3.34 |
| Total | 190.00 | 157.78 |

3. Summary Statement of Expenditure by economic categories

| Details of Expenditure | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Compensation of Employees | 130.8 | 125.17 |
| Goods and Services | 30.9 | 25.83 |
| Grants | 2.1 | 3.44 |
| Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets | 26.2 | 3.34 |
| Total Expenditure | 190 | 157.78 |

4. Statement of Revenue

| Revenue | Expected | Actual |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Provision of Briefs to Counsels | 0.31 | 0.38 |
| Total Revenue | 0.31 | 0.38 |

5. Gender Classification

| Categories | Women | Men |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Top Management | 11 | 4 |
| Middle Management | 24 | 8 |
| Support & Others | 68 | 21 |
| Overall | 103 | 33 |

C. Office of the Parliamentary Counsel

1. The Budgetary allocation for the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel were Rs 24 Million

2. Total Expenditure for Financial Year 2023/24

| Expenditure | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Recurrent | 24.00 | 20.62 |

3. Summary Statement of Expenditure by economic categories

| Details of Expenditure | Voted Provision | Actual Expenditure |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rs (Million) | Rs (Million) |
| Compensation of Employees | 23.9 | 20.52 |
| Goods and Services | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Total Expenditure | 24 | 20.62 |

4. Gender Classification

| Categories | Women | Men |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Top Management | 4 | 3 |
| Middle Management | 2 | 1 |
| Support & Others | 2 | 0 |
| Overall | 8 | 4 |

PART IV

THE WAY FORWARD

Trends and Challenges

Trends and challenges at the Office are ever-evolving. Over the years, this Office has had to face and deal with a key challenge which remains that of most favourable office space. This has been the main challenge for this Office since it has a direct impact on the extent of expansion that this Office can afford in terms on human resources and office equipment. The need for further recruitment means that the Office has to re-work the current office layout which may not be to everyone's satisfaction. In recent years, and mainly since the Covid-19 pandemic, this challenge has become greater because special attention has to be placed on factors determining a safe and healthy working environment. Issues, mainly with regard to accommodating new officers need to be dealt with tactfully in order to avoid conflicts within the Office. Such challenges are regularly faced by this office mainly due to the recruitment of Law officers and the need for expansion of other sections of this Office.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction for the Attorney General's Office over the upcoming years focuses on service, effective processes, capacity building and aiding in improving the judicial system of the Country through co-ordination and collaboration with other stakeholders. This Office takes cognizance of the significant responsibilities it bears toward the society and its accountability cannot be overstated. As such, this Office recognises the constant need to improve quality of services and this can only be achieved by expanding and upgrading its resources. As such, greater specialist training and skills are required to meet the emerging demands placed upon this Office. Stability in a specialist workforce can only exist when there is the right working condition on a parallel level. And this leads to the key challenge mentioned earlier, optimal office accommodation. Request has been made to procure a building in order to house all the various sections of the office under the same roof so that all Officers are able to benefit from the same improved work premises and facilities.