

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

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Overview

The digital economy has a profound influence on the world's trajectory and the societal wellbeing of ordinary citizens. It affects everything from resource allocation to income distribution and growth. The information and communications technology (ICT) industry stands at the centre of the digital economy, serving as a reliable yardstick of its performance. ICT is a key sector of the Mauritian economy. It grew by 5.3 percent in 2018 and has the potential to grow further with the development of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain. In line with the Mauritius Vision 2030 that calls for an intelligent and smart Mauritius, the top priority of the Government is to speed up the process of moving the country towards a fullyfledged digital economy and society.

National Computer Board (NCB) is considered as a strategic player in helping the government to achieve its 'Vision 2030' objective by actively participated in the growth of the ICT industry through its various projects. Two 3D Printing Centres have been set up at Port Louis and Coromandel to provide free 3D Printing services for the benefit of a wide range of industries and professionals. The Planning, Research & Development (PRD) has organised workshop on Open source, providing training on Open Data and Geospatial to IT professional from the government and para-statal bodies.

The Government Online Centre (GOC) which is the centralised datacentre provide assistance and advice to citizens, businesses, government officers and non-citizens abroad. The eservices have been working toward the vision of the Government of Mauritius by providing an effective service to the public through the deployment of e-Government and ICT. Moreover, the G-Cloud infrastructure has been expanded due to the intensify request from Ministry and department to host their servers and services. A SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) solution has been enforced that enables the capture of logs and events from the various devices on the GOC infrastructure.

In order to better equipped young Mauritians with coding skills, the NCB has implemented the 'Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP)'to primary student which provides introductory courses on Coding to youngsters with the objectives of stimulating the interest of our young learners for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects.

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The NCB has also been delivering Coding Sessions in secondary schools to students in Grade 9. The modules taught include 'Introduction to Scratch Programming', 'Overview of HTML / CSS' and 'Introduction to BBC Micro Bits'.

The increasing reliance on the cyberspace brings new opportunities, but at the same time new Cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated, and continue to develop malicious software and devise improved methods for infecting computer systems and networks. Cyber criminals are adapting their tactics, as new defences are implemented. The cyberspace is being used as a platform to compromise critical infrastructures and commit crimes such as fraud, theft. The NCB through the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU) carry out Cybersecurity Drilling exercises and continued awareness campaigns to mitigate the risk. It also assists the Ministry of Technology, Communication Innovation in formulating cybersecurity policies and strategies.

Mauritius has, within a short span of time, successfully consolidated bases for ICT to expand rapidly, with the support of both the public and private sectors. The NCB takes pride in contributing to the Government's vision to transform Mauritius into a smart island and is determined to continue fulfilling its strategic role in the development of ICT in Mauritius.

A. NCB ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Business Development and Promotion (BDP) Division

1.1 Background

The Business Development and Promotion (BDP) Division, was set up in 2004 to develop an integrated approach for the promotion of Mauritius as a cyber-island at regional and international levels, in coordination with other public and private organisations of the ICT sector. Since its inception, the BDP division has devised various strategies and projects that are inline to its mandate. Its main objective is to facilitate and promote the development of the ICT industry in Mauritius, through specific initiatives.

1.2 Objectives

The main objective of the BDP is to facilitate and promote the development of the ICT industry in Mauritius, through specific initiatives.

The BDP Division was set up with the objectives to:

- Support the growth of the ICT industry
- Promote and empower ICT start-ups
- Develop marketing/promotional tools for ICT businesses
- Facilitate local companies in marketing their products and services
- Organise ICT Trade fairs and exhibitions
- Encourage and facilitate the participation of local ICT companies in international promotional trade fairs and ICT events
- Devise and advise the Government on and implement marketing strategies for ICT industry development
- Empower SMEs through the adoption of innovative technology

1.3 Projects and Achievements

Since its inception, the BDP Division has carried out a series of projects to meet the above objectives. One of the main projects carried out by the BDP division is the organisation of ICT events to promote ICT Businesses. The department organises Infotech, the largest ICT event in the Indian Ocean annually, after the 25th edition of Infotech, the event has been revamped to InnovTech which has more emphasis on innovation. The Infotech

project was also carried to Rodrigues where it has been successful. Other events which have been organised by the department are ICT Expo and IDC-CIO networking day. This year, the BDP division embarked in a more conceptualised innovative project which is the setting up of two 3D Printing Centres, it is envisaged at a later stage to upscale the project and turn it into a FabLab.

The projects implemented in the year 2018/19 are listed below.

1.1.1 Infotech Rodrigues

Infotech Rodrigues, 7th Edition, was held from 3 to 5 August 2018 at Malabar. The event comprised of an opening ceremony which was held on Friday 3rd August 2018 at 10:00hrs. 12 companies participated in the event. More than 10,000 visitors came to visit Infotech Rodrigues.

The objectives of Infotech Rodrigues were to:

- Increase awareness in Rodrigues on emerging technologies
- Sensitize on the potential applications of ICT
- Sensitize on career opportunities in the ICT sector
- To promote and encourage ICT literacy

Two workshops were organised during Infotech Rodrigues, which are:

- Workshop on Open Data
- Workshop on 3D Printing

The main components of Infotech Rodrigues 2018 were:

- ICT Exhibition (ICT companies, including ISPs, operating in Mauritius and Rodrigues displayed their products and services
- Virtual Reality demo
- Initiation to Coding for kids and
- Awareness sessions on 3D Printing

1.1.2 Infotech 2018

The 25th edition of Infotech was held from Thursday 30 August 2018 to Sunday 2 September 2018 at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre (SVICC), Pailles. The event comprised of an opening ceremony which was held on Wednesday 29 August 2018 at 19.00 hrs, at the SVICC. The Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Honourable Minister Yogida Sawmynaden, was the Chief Guest and officially launched the event.

Some 500 invitees attended the Opening Ceremony which included Government officials, CEOs of public and private bodies, sponsors and exhibitors of Infotech 2018. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a visit of stands in the Exhibition Hall, the Innovation Space and followed by a Cocktail. Samsung, a gold sponsor of Infotech 2018, launched the new Samsung Note 9 during the opening ceremony. Infotech 2018 included the following main components:

- ICT Exhibition
- InnovTech Demo Area
- InnovTech Conference
- Start Up Week End
- 3D Printing
- Coding
- Gaming Zone
- E-Gov Services

The 60 stands in the ICT Exhibition, in the main hall were booked by 28 exhibitors that showcased their technology and ICT products & services. Sales were allowed in the ICT Exhibition. Infotech included a Delivery Zone. Visitors were able to take delivery of their purchased products in the delivery zone, thus avoiding heavy traffic. The Delivery Zone was located outside the main hall (VIP Corridor).

In line with Government's vision to move upscale to a Smart and Innovative Mauritius, an Innovation Demo Area was set up in the Atrium of SVICC to showcase innovative products, services, apps and projects developed by Mauritians from the industry, institutions and academia. Technologies such as Satellite, Virtual Reality, IOT, 3D Printing, VR Gaming, Robotics, Smart Home, Artificial Intelligence and

Innovative Apps were demonstrated. 19 participants were present in the Innovation demo area.

InnovTech conferences were held over Three days of the event i.e. from Thursday 30 August 2018 to Saturday 1 September 2018 in the swan conference hall at the SVICC, Pailles. The different themes for the conference are as follows:

- Day 1 Emerging Technologies by NCB
- Day 2 Data Science and Cyber Security by NCB
- Day 3 Satellite Technologies by MRC

125 People and ICT professionals attended the workshop on Day 1 and 110 people on Day 2.

The Mauritius Research Council (MRC) carried out a conference on Saturday 1 August 2018 from 11:00hrs to 13:00hrs on Satellite Technologies to familiarize the Mauritian public, especially students with nanosatellite related technologies.

A dedicated 3D Printing Area was setup in the main ICT Exhibition hall comprising of 3D Printing Companies in Mauritius. The NCB was also present to inform visitors about the two 3D Printing Centres being set up at NCB and SME Mauritius Ltd for the purpose of providing support to a wide range of industries, professions and academia, including SMEs, start-ups, designers and university students. During the four days of the exhibition, live demos on 3D Printing and Scanning were demonstrated to the visitors. Our NCB 3D Printing distributed 120 key rings with customized name tags of visitors.

Gaming Zone

The Gaming Zone hosted by LAN Gamers Association (E- Sports), under the sponsorship of Compuspeed and Data Communication Ltd, comprised of 30 stations, for LAN Gaming, linked to a 100 Mb ADSL line provided by Mauritius Telecom. The Gaming Zone also consisted of 15 Sony PlayStation with a gaming competition among visitors on FIFA 2018. The Gaming Zone, as was the case for previous editions, proved very popular among the younger visitors.

E-Gov Services

The Government has recently emphasised upon the importance of 'vulgarisation' of eservices to the general public and has expressed wish to use the Post Offices (PIAPs) across the island to impart information on e-services and to help citizens in accessing these e-services.

Infotech, being the largest ICT event in Mauritius drawing some 100,000 visitors, was an ideal event for creating awareness of e-Gov Services at national level. In this context, the Government Online Centre (GOC) manned a dedicated E-Gov Services corner. The Mauritius Post was also present to make people use service of the PIAPs.

Sponsors of Infotech

The Sponsors and Partners of Infotech 2018 were:

Platinum sponsor: Mauritius Telecom

Gold sponsor & Product Launch Sponsor: Samsung

Silver sponsors: Information & Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), State Informatics Ltd (SIL) and HTC

Media Partner: Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC)

Networking Cocktail Sponsor: Red Hat Linux

Outcome: More than 100,000 visitors visited Infotech during the 4 days of the event.

1.1.3 Launching of 3D Printing Services.

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In the 2018/19 budget, the Government mandated the NCB to promote the concept of 3D printing by setting up two 3D Printing centers, which will benefit a wide range of industries, professions and academia, including SMEs, start-ups, designers and university students. The BDP division was assigned the task of conceptualising the project. A first 3D Printing centre was set up in the National Computer Board where mainly students use the facility to print their projects. In view to extend 3D services to the SME community, the second centre was setup at SME Mauritius in Coromandel and was officially launched on 28 March 2019.

1,200 objects printed. 160 visitors have visited both 3D Printing Centre. 124 people were trained on 3D Printing Technologies.

Projects Collaborated

- Coral Reef restoration NCB in collaboration with Sun Resorts and the University of Mauritius for 3D printing of artificial reefs and bases for coral breeding
- Non-Governmental Organisations 3D braille and education puzzles as well as training for the benefit of the visually impaired persons at Lois Lagesse School for the Blind, Lizie Dans la Main and Global Rainbow Foundation.
- Air Quality Monitoring Sensors-Ministry of Environment, CIB and the University of Mauritius for the printing of 3D casings for IoT atmospheric sensors

Training Events

Total people trained in 3D Printing technologies: 124

- Nov & Dec 2018 NCB in collaboration with NPCC offered a two-days training on Design Thinking & 3D printing to some 114 students.
- 10 educators from Lois Lagesse School for the Blind, Lizie Dans la Main and Global Rainbow Foundation in April and May 2019

Events Participated

The NCB 3D Printing Centre took part in many technology related events such as:

- Science Fair at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (7-10 May 2019)
- **Innovative Village competition** at Providence (27 April 2019)
- Counselling session and demo on 3D Printing & 3D Modelling with student and teachers of **Royal College Port Louis (**28 May 2019)
- Workshop on adoption of 3D Printing Technologies for SMEs at Palms Hotel. 50 SMEs attended the workshop (28 June 2019)

2. The Planning, Research and Development (PRD)

2.1 Background

The Planning Research and Development Division has been set up to study the use of ICT in Mauritius, make policy and legal recommendations, analyse the trend in ICT technologies, promote the use of state-of-the-art technologies and carry out R&D in ICT. The department is one of the core division of the NCB which has led to the implementation of projects which has later been considered as new divisions of the NCB. This comprises the setting up of the Government Online Centre, the CERT-MU and the ICT Incubator. As part of its previous mandate of creating awareness and developing ICT Culture, the ICT Culture & Promotion has been formed under PRD and then given its independence. The PRD was responsible for the development of a number of strategic plans like for example the NICTSP 2007-2011 and 2011-2014. In recent years, the National Open Source Policy and Strategy and National Green IT Policy and Strategy has been developed under the PRD. Additionally, the PRD is a regular member in various strategic plans and projects of other institutions where ICT is a concern, like for example the National E-Waste Strategy and Action Plan, National Export Policy, Open Educational Resources Policy, etc. Furthermore, the PRD plays a fundamental role in monitoring ICT performance at national level through monitoring indicators and developing benchmarking report by analysing frequently international indices such the ITU ICT development index. World Economic Forum Network Readiness Index, UN E-Government index, etc. Finally, the PRD is also active in organising events and activities mainly on emerging trends in technology and on the occasion of global ICT events such as the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, World Intellectual Property Day, etc.

2.2 Objectives

The main objectives of PRD are to:

- Monitoring ICT Indicators and preparing information society related reports
- Promote ICT and emerging technologies at national level
- Continuously enhancing awareness in sustainable ICTs

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- Acting as a partner of the IST Africa initiative to assist and facilitate researchers and Professionals to submit proposals for EU Horizon 2020 programme as well as submitting research papers for the yearly conferences
- Working in close collaboration with other institutions in the aspects of e-waste, ICTs for education, environment, ICT standards, etc.
- Assisting the MTCI in developing policies and strategies for the ICT Sector recent strategies/policies developed are the National Green IT Policy/Strategy, National Open Source Policy/Strategy, NICTSP, etc. The PRD is currently initiating for the development of the National Software Strategy
- Assisting public institutions in their computerisation projects, including preparing and evaluating their technical proposals
- Organise capacity building programme and workshops in area of interest and relevance such as Intellectual Property, ICT Governance, Internet of Things, Smart technologies, etc.
- Administering and managing the ICT Infrastructure of the NCB Head Office

2.3 Project & Achievements 2018/2019

2.3.1 Open Source

- 2-day Workshop on Open Source Licensing on 1st and 2nd October 2018 (70 participants)
- Steering Committee set up for AI competition

2.3.2 Open data

- Training for 20 CIB officers on 16th and 17th August 2018
- On-site assessment and Administrator training (for 10 persons) on Open Data platform (DKAN/Drupal) in July 2019
- Training scheduled for 42 CISD officers in August 2019
- Training scheduled for data wrangling for 10 officers from Statistic Mauritius end of September 2019

- On-going assistance to selected ministries and para-statal bodies for building up on datasets
- Ongoing data wrangling for para-statal bodies
- Awareness on Open Data in Rodrigues in October 2019
- Ongoing: Presentations, assistance and data wrangling for 160 para-statals
- Number of Open Data sets released: 236
- Number of Open Data Teams: 56 (for para-statals only)

2.3.3 Geospatial

- 3-day Training for IT professionals from 19th to 22nd February 2019
- Consultancy retained for ONSDI setup, administrative training (15 officers) and technical training (30 Officers) in June & July 2019

2.3.4 Others

- ICT indicators Ongoing: collect statistics from data providers, reformat & consolidate and update all ICT-related statistics of Mauritius on portal http://indicators.ncb.mu/
- Benchmarking report for the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2018 prepared, covering analysis of various sub-indices and indicators along with recommendations for improving the ranking of Mauritius on the international level.
- Organised Round Table in context of WTISD 2019 in collaboration with ICTA on the theme "Bridging the Standardization Gap" with 25 participants on 28 May 2019.
- One day workshop on the 27th June on Digital Marketing for SMEs

3. Government Online Centre

3.1 Background

The Government Online Centre (GOC) is a department of the National Computer Board. Operational since May 2005, it is the centralised datacentre to provide Government services to citizens, businesses, government officers and non-citizens abroad. As such it is considered to be one of the most critical sites of the Government infrastructure. Over the years, the GOC has grown from a server room of 5 racks of servers to a full-fledged data centre of over 80 rack-space capability for servers and equipment.

The GOC is constantly reinforcing its infrastructure to meet international datacentre standards. In addition, the GOC, through its skilled staff, year after year, innovates through implementation of eGovernment projects, examples of which incudes, the Government Portal, which has recently been revamped, the Government Cloud infrastructure for the provision of virtual servers constituting robust IT solutions delivering Government services.

Currently, the GOC has initiated for the setting up of a department (IT Service and Change Management) that will be responsible for Service Management and Help Desk. To implement this ITSM initiative, practically all the GOC staffs is ITIL V3 certified. Likewise, a Service Catalog has been developed, comprising both internal and external services provided by the GOC. The GOC is in the process of developing an ITSM system, based on most of the ITIL principles (Availability Management, Configuration Management, Incident Management, Release Management, Capacity Management and others. Furthermore, the GOC is laying emphasis on IT Asset Management, where currently a physical inventory of the datacentre has been carried out. It is planned for the new ITSM system to include a module on IT Asset Management. Furthermore, the GOC is also initiating for empowering a dedicated team for monitoring of the applications, networks and servers in the Data centre, and this will be another responsibility of the IT Service and Change Management tasks such as maintenance agreement, service level agreement, renewal of software licenses and others.

3.2 Objectives

- Host the Government Web Portal, which is the "front office" vehicle through which integrated and value-added services are delivered to citizens, non-citizens, businesses and Government department and agencies
- Provide centralized Internet access and email facilities to employees of Ministries and Departments
- Manage the IT infrastructure of Government departments and agencies, thus enabling them to focus on their core competencies and enhance their efficiency and quality of service
- Reduce investment costs for the Government by centralizing the public sector's IT infrastructure, thus resulting in cost optimization and better use of public funds
- Create a secure and trustworthy infrastructure and environment for conducting online transactions between:
 - o Government and citizens
 - o Government and businesses and
 - o The various Government departments
- Host the websites of Ministries, Departments and parastatal organisations
- Provide the appropriate infrastructure for the hosting of common and back-office applications of Ministries and Department
- Provide facilities for online applications (eservices)

3.3 Services

Hosting of websites

The GOC hosts the key government ICT systems, the websites of ministries, departments and parastatal bodies, and the Government's Web portal, which is an Internet-based website that aggregates all government information and services in one place. As at 31st December 2015, around 400 websites are hosted at GOC.

Email

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The GOC also provides email facilities to 9,000+ email users of Ministries and Departments. Features such as calendaring, mail synchronization, mail encryption, mail call back, and resource management are amongst the few benefits that are derived from Microsoft Exchange. The GOC is currently working on scaling up of the Email platform

in order to respond to the increasing demands for Email accounts from Ministries and Departments.

E-Services

The Government Web Portal (<u>http://www.govmu.org</u>) is the gateway to access applications online through the main portal as well as one of its sub-portals, the Citizen Portal. This eServices section enables the submission of online applications, the receipt of online acknowledgements and the online tracking of status of applications, amongst others. Among the services integrated in the citizen portal, the eServices represent the main component whereby the citizen may interact with the Government anytime, anywhere and in real-time. All online transactions are encrypted and secured. The eServices provide the necessary line of sight and linkage to ensure the efficient and effective application of ICT and e-Government. The eServices also contributes to the vision of the Government of Mauritius through an effective delivery of public services through the deployment of e-Government and ICT. As at date, there are more than 130 eServices available on the Government Web Portal.

Internet

The GOC is the agency that provides Internet access to all Government bodies connected to the GINS network. The Internet access is secured with the latest technology solutions constituting a modern network topology with Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW) as well as Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS).

3.4 Projects and Achievements

3.4.1 G-Cloud Expansion Project Timeline: August 2018

With increasing demands from Government Ministries and department for the hosting of servers and services, the GOC had to look for different possibilities to meet the requests. As space is a scarce resource and because it is important to limit the carbon footprint, it was decided to expand the G-Cloud infrastructure.

Consequently, the G-Cloud infrastructure now provides a private cloud environment running over a hyperconverged infrastructure which is inherently more compact and hence more environment friendly when it comes to energy consumption (power and cooling). The infrastructure has been designed such that it is easily scalable while ensuring the provision of a robust and reliable platform for delivery of Government services.

3.4.2 SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) Project Timeline: February 2019

As the Government Online Centre environment is growing ever more distributed and complex, the need for a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) solution became more important for an effective management of the current and future infrastructure.

The SIEM solution implemented now enables the capture of logs and events from the various devices on the GOC infrastructure and provides for the real time correlation and analysis of these logs and eventually flagging offenses. In addition, the SIEM solution caters for the management of all aspects of security from discovery of potential security issues to resolution.

3.4.3 NGFW (Next Generation Firewall) Project Timeline: March 2019

The Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) was a necessity to enable the GOC to have a better visibility regarding the threats that are going through the network. The Next Generation Firewall compared to traditional firewalls provides deeper inspection of network traffic by looking at covert applications that are harmful to servers hosted at GOC.

The GOC intends to acquire NGFW solution that use deep packet inspection, including stateful protocol inspection (SPI) techniques to examine traffic for anomalies and known malware.

3.4.4 Revamping of the Government Web Portal Project Timeline: July 2019

The Government Portal is a one-stop-shop providing comprehensive information and delivering integrated e-services round-the-clock. www.govmu.org is the main point of entry for Citizens, Non-Citizen & Businesses to access and interact with Government online services.

As at date the current platform hosts over 350 websites for ministries/departments, schools, embassies abroad and para-statal bodies. In addition, around 130 eServices are online for the public to interact with different departments in Government. With the rapid pace in portal and web technology, the Government of Mauritius has taken a strategic decision to enhance the current portal technology for one that leverages on the latest web technology to benefit from various networked applications utilizing technologies such as social networking, user tagging, social bookmarks and content and service rating amongst others. Such technologies have been designed to reach and attract a greater user audience, thereby aiming at increasing the efficiency of e-government applications

The ultimate aim of the new portal technology is to improve productivity by increasing the speed and customizing the content of information provided to internal and external constituencies. With the new portal technology and high broadband access, it will make it easy to do business, allow for interaction and collaboration among Government officials and citizens

3.4.5 Setting up the Disaster Recovery Site for the GOC Project Timeline: June 2020

The setting up of a disaster recovery site for the GOC is of prime importance to ensure the continuation of vital business processes in the event that a disaster occurs. A secondary site will be operated simultaneously with the primary site. The identified site will be designed as per international data centre standards, with emphasis on a secure and resilient network and security infrastructure which can sustain operations in the unavailability of the Primary Site.

4. ICT Culture Promotion (ICTCP)

4.1 Background

In its endeavour to e-powering people, ICT Culture Promotion (ICTCP) department has different projects geared towards promoting ICT literacy and training for the public, democratising access to ICT for community empowerment and social development as follows:

- Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP)
- Cyber Caravan Project
- Community Empowerment Programme (CEP)

4.2 Objectives

The objectives of the ICTCP Department are as follows: -

- To promote ICT literacy to the community and create awareness on uses and applications of ICT
- To democratise access to ICTs & Internet
- To promote ICT for social development
- To contribute to build an information society in line with the national objective of making of ICT a major pillar of the economy

4.3 Projects and Achievements

The ICT Culture Promotion (ICTCP) Department of the National Computer Board has been implementing a number of ICT training projects over the years for the benefit of the citizens and community at large. This department has a good outreach to the community with its two Cyber Caravans and the network of State Secondary Schools under the UIEP Programme. The different projects implemented by the ICTCP Unit during the period 2018-2019 are as follows:

4.3.1 Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP)

The National Computer Board (NCB) is implementing the Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP) since September 2006. One of the priorities of the UIEP programme is the introduction of the internationally acknowledged Internet and

Computing Core Certification (IC3) course with a view of making it the benchmark for digital literacy / proficiency in Mauritius.

The UIEP programme aims at training a maximum number of persons comprising students, employees (including Public Officers), unemployed, housewives, senior citizens and public at large on the IC3 course which is in line with Government's vision to transform Mauritius into a Cyber Island and an ICT Hub.

The IC3 course is of 45-hour duration and is delivered in the computer labs of some 30 State Secondary Schools after school hours on week-days and during weekends. The IC3 training is currently integrated in the secondary school curriculum and offered to students from Grade 7 to Grade 9.

The IC3 course comprises three core modules: Computing Fundamentals, Key Applications (Word Processing, Spreadsheets, and Presentation Package) and Living Online. A Certificate of Attendance is awarded by the National Computer Board to all those participants who complete at least 41 hours of the course.

For the period 2018-2019, some 17,200 participants have been trained on the IC3 programme (inclusive of Grade 9 Integration).

4.3.2 Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP)

The National Computer Board (NCB) is implementing the 'Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP)' which comprise the provision of introductory courses on Coding to youngsters – Primary pupils (Grades 4 & 5) and Secondary students (Grade 9).

a. DYEP (Primary)

The National Computer Board (NCB) is implementing since 2017 the Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP Primary), also referred to as Coding in Primary Schools. The programme comprises the provision of introductory courses on Coding to primary students.

The NCB is acting as a training service provider to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for the introduction of Coding in primary schools starting as early as Grade 4 and Grade 5. The learners are provided with a 15-hour training delivered in the NCB Cyber Caravans which tour various primary schools in the 4 educational zones across the island following a joint collaboration and an agreed timetable with the Ministry of Education.

The objectives of introducing Coding at an early age are to spark the interest of our young learners for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects and contribute to increase the number of students opting for Science and Computer Subjects at Secondary and Tertiary Levels.

The students are encouraged and motivated to learn a set of coding skills via course materials accessible online from an Open Source coding platform (www.Code.org). It is to be noted that Coding (or computer programming) is a new type of literacy which allow children to express themselves with the computer, not just to interact with it but do develop their problem-solving and critical thinking.

NCB makes use of a mix of IT equipment (in the Cyber Caravans) including PCs, Laptops, Raspberry Pi and Tablets for the delivery of the trainings in Coding. It is be seamless for the learner accessing online course materials from whatever device he/she is using and at the same time this will also be an opportunity to showcase the latest IT technologies available to the students and community.

For the period 2018-2019, 2,008 students have been trained on Coding for primary students and covering some 12 primary schools and about 30 centres.

b. DYEP (Secondary)

The National Computer Board (NCB) is implementing the Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP Secondary) since April 2019 and comprises of introductory course modules on coding to secondary school students at Grade 9.

The NCB is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for the delivery of Coding Sessions in secondary schools targeting the Grade 9 students. The learners are provided with a 18-hour training by Secondary Educators in Computer Studies and the hands-on training is held in the Computer Labs.

The learning benefits of programming at a younger age help the youngsters to gain advantages in critical thinking, computational thinking, and creativity skills, problemsolving and to act in an innovative manner. A number of coding skills are thus imparted to the students.

The modules taught include 'Introduction to Scratch Programming', 'Overview of HTML / CSS' and 'Introduction to BBC Micro Bits'.

For the period 2018-2019, 1,385 students have been trained on DYEP secondary thus covering 44 state secondary schools and 21 PSEA colleges.

c. Citizen Engagement Programme (CEP)

The Citizen Engagement Programme was launched in April 2018 with the aim of providing ICT awareness training to Senior Citizens.

The two Cyber Caravans of the National Computer Board (NCB), equipped with some 40 computers and other IT equipment, normally proceed on Sundays to the three recreational centres namely Dr James Burty David Recreational Centre (Pointe aux Sables), Lady Sushil Ramgoolam Recreational Centre (Pointe aux Piments) and SSR Recreational Centre (Belle Mare) to deliver IT training to Senior Citizens on Social Media tools like Facebook, YouTube and online communication tools i.e. Skype, WhatsApp and others. The training is offered in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development.

The main objective of the training is to e-power the senior citizens thus enabling them to acquire the required digital skills to join the online communities so that digital technology subsequently becomes an important part of their daily lives. Moreover, the

use of social media will allow them to better connect with their peers and children among others.

It is to be highlighted that the acquisition of knowledge and IT skills pertaining to the use of digital tools by the elderly will contribute towards reducing the generation gap between them and the youth.

For the period 2018-2019, 2,663 senior citizens have already been trained on ICT Awareness Training under the CEP.

5. Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU)

5.1 Background

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU) is responsible for promoting the cyber security culture and coordinating cybersecurity issues at national level. CERT-MU handles security incidents and monitors security problems occurring within its constituency (constituency includes entire cyber community of the country). Regular incidents are reported and resolved pertaining to cybercrime and cyber security. Numerous awareness sessions are conducted throughout the year in schools and colleges to sensitise youths on the Internet safety. In addition to resolving incidents and raising awareness, CERT-MU also assists the Ministry of Technology, Communication Innovation in formulating cyber-security policies and strategies.

5.2 Objectives

The main objectives of CERT-MU are to:

- Handle security incidents and monitor security problems occurring within public and private sectors;
- Provide guidance to providers of critical information infrastructure to adopt best practices in information security
- Warn and educate systems administrators and users about latest information security threats and suggest countermeasures by means of information dissemination.

5.3 Project & Achievements

5.3.1 Assistance in setting up the Malagasy CERT

A delegation comprising three delegates from "Authorité de Regulation des Technologies de Communication" (ARTEC)", Madagascar came to Mauritius from 25 – 28 November 2018 for a study tour on Cybersecurity. The objective of this tour was to gain knowledge about the setting up of a CERT and to understand the legal framework necessary for the establishment of a CERT in Madagascar. The delegates who came to CERT-MU for this information exchange were as follows:

- 1. Mr Franck Maherisoa RABANOSON, Directeur des Affaires Juridiques,
- Mr Dieu Donné Eloi RAKOTOARIJAONA, Chef de Service Contrôle Technique et de la veille technologique
- 3. Mrs Veromamy Nirina ANDRIAMIHAJA.

The information exchange was conducted at the head office of the National Computer Board from 26 – 28 November 2018. During this exercise the CERT-MU team conducted several presentations for the ARTEC delegates to explain the requirements needed for the setting up of a CERT, the services that are being provided at the CERT-MU, the legal framework of the country in the field of Cybersecurity and the setup of the National Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Disaster Committee. The CERT-MU team also provided the delegates with an understanding of the National Cybersecurity and National Cybercrime Strategy that is already in place in Mauritius. The delegates from ARTEC also visited the CERT-MU office to have an idea of the physical IT infrastructure needed for the setting up of a CERT in their country.

The study tour ended on the 28 November 2018 and the delegates were satisfied with the information that was provided to them from CERT-MU.

5.3.2 Resolved over 450 incidents which were reported

Incidents that were reported included the following:

- Phishing
- Sextortion

- Account compromised
- Identity theft
- Malware infection/Botnet

5.3.3 SADC Capacity Building Workshop on Cybersecurity and SADC Regional Cybersecurity Drill

CERT-MU organised the SADC Capacity Building Workshop on Cybersecurity and SADC Regional Cybersecurity Drill from the 10 – 13 September 2018 in the Conference Hall A, Cyber Tower 1, Ebène in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The main objectives of the 4 days' event were to build capacity and awareness on cybersecurity, conduct the first SADC Regional Cyber Drill and develop the framework to establish the SADC Regional Computer Incident Response Team. The event was also focused on the authentication schemes the member countries have deployed using the Public Key Infrastructure Technology.

The SADC Capacity Building Workshop on Cybersecurity and SADC Regional Cybersecurity Drill was officially opened by the Honorable Yogida Sawmynaden, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation and was attended by some 100 delegates from 14 SADC countries including Mauritius.

The regional SADC Regional Cybersecurity Drill was organized for the first time by SADC Secretariat. The target audience for the drill included IT professionals, System Administrators, Law enforcement officers and IT security professionals. The cybersecurity drill was conducted by the CERT-MU Team from 11 – 12 September 2018 and was attended by 66 delegates from SADC states.

5.3.4 National Cybersecurity Drill for the Financial Sector and the Civil Aviation Department

CERT-MU organized a National Cybersecurity Drill from the 25 - 28 June 2019 for the Financial Sector and the Civil Aviation Department. The main objective of the 4 days' event is to assess the preparedness of these sectors to resist cyber threats and

enable timely detection, response, and mitigation and recovery actions in the event of cyber-attacks.

The activities which were organized are as follows:

- One-day workshop on Cyber Attack Preparedness & Response (25 June 2019)
- Three-days Cyber Drill exercise (26 28 June 2019)
- 5.3.5 Awareness sessions on "Internet Safety" and "Secure Usage of Internet"

CERT-MU carried out awareness sessions on Internet Safety and Secure Usage of Internet in schools and women centres whereby some 1200 students and some 400 housewives were sensitised. This is an ongoing activity of CERT-MU in order to sensitise a maximum number of youngsters and individuals on the dangers of the internet.

5.3.6 Published security guidelines, white papers and newsletters

Cyber threats take many forms, such as application attacks, malware, ransomware, phishing and exploit kits. Recent technological advancements have opened up new possibilities for cybersecurity, however, adversaries have benefited from these advancements, as well. Taking advantage of automation, attackers can deploy large-scale attacks at significantly reduced costs. Further, the cybercrime economy makes sophisticated attacks easy to deploy and available to a wide variety of motivated adversaries. Cybersecurity tools and technologies should incorporate automation, machine learning and shared threat intelligence to help organizations get ahead and stay on the cutting edge to combat advanced threats.

At CERT-MU we strive to continuously stay up-to-date with the latest technologies and keep pace with the evolving threat landscape. In the same line, CERT-MU publishes security guidelines, whitepapers and newsletters to aid the community in familiarizing themselves with the latest types of attacks and therefore protecting against them.

The publications for the period July 2018 – June 2019 included:

Best Practice Guide on Handling Unsolicited Emails

- Guideline on Virtualization and Hypervisor Security
- Whitepaper on Meltdown and Spectre Vulnerabilities

6. ICT Incubator Unit / Technopreneurship Programme

6.1 Background

The Technopreneurship Unit was set up to boost Entrepreneurship in the ICT sector under the strategies and objectives of e- powering businesses. The main objectives of the Technopreneurship Unit of NCB are to:

- Create a Techno-entrepreneurship culture to build an innovative ICT Start-up Nation.
 Encourage Ideation, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship to develop ICT Start-Ups and Technopreneurs.
- Organise Program and initiatives in emerging Technologies to develop a Community of Entrepreneurs in ICT Sector
- Promote and Inspire start-ups to come up with Innovative solutions/ services to improve life of citizen through the use of ICT.

The main services offered by the Technopreneurship Unit are detailed as given below:

Business Advice

- ➢ How to write Business Plan
- ➢ How to prepare financial forecasts.
- How to prepare Marketing plan

Guidance:

- How to start business in the ICT Sector
- > The different financing schemes available to fund projects in Mauritius.
- ➢ How to incorporate a Company.
- ▶ How to present the website to increase their visibility

Support:

- > Act as Facilitator/ Mentor to start-ups in realizing their projects.
- BizSpark Program, start-ups benefit from Software, Support and Visibility

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BizSpark is a global Program designed to accelerate success of early stage Software startups, which is available in more than 150 countries.

Training/ Talks/ Workshops and Conferences

- Organise Technical Training/ Tech Talks/ Workshops/ Conferences in emerging Technologies and build capacity of Start-ups in:
 - Business Plan Writing Training
 - Craft your value proposition
 - Business Model canvas

Turn Idea to Business

Organise TechIdeaSpace through- out the year to promote the culture of start-ups in the ICT Sector and to support start-ups to turn idea to business.

Idea Competition

Organise Idea Competition to create a Techno-entrepreneurship culture to build an innovative ICT Start-up Nation in Mauritius. The competition has various stages where team participations are encouraged to solve life real problems and to improve daily life of citizens. The competition are organised in three stages in the competition and at each stage they have to convince the jury members prior to joining the next stage. Detailed forms with guidelines are prepared to support the team in making their submissions easy.

6.2 Achievements for June 2018 to July 2019

6.2.1 The Technopreneurship Unit

The Technopreneurship was present to promote its services to the members of the public present during the 4 days at the Infotech 2018, NCB Stand.

6.2.2 Tech-Talks

On 25th September 2018, the NCB Technopreneurship Unit organized its Tech Talk on schemes offered to start-ups and SME's in the Board Room of NCB 7th Floor Stratton Court, la Poudriere Street, Port Louis. The start-ups present were made aware of the following schemes to help them in their business activities:

The Schemes presented to the Technopreneurs for the NCB Tech Talk were the following:

The Communication and Visibility Online Presence Scheme

This scheme assists SME's in developing the various tools and means for online presence and marketing. The SME can acquire 80% of cost of the project up to a maximum amount of Rs40,000/- for the technical assistance for the following areas of intervention: Domain Name; Website Design and Development, Social Media Presence and Digital marketing training.

The Mentoring and Handholding Programme

This programme offers free mentoring and hand holding assistance from industry experts in the implementation of specific business improvement programs. The Mentors/industry experts share their lifelong acquired experience, knowledge, skills and abilities, long term perspective to foster the sustainability growth of SME's. The Mentor should aim at sharing their knowledge and best practices in the implementation of improved programmes in the specific areas of intervention: Financial and accounting; marketing; Operational Management and in Information Technology: IT Tools and online presence and visibility.

 The Technology and Skills Transfer Inclusive Business schemeThe SME Employment Scheme

This scheme is to encourage established enterprises to enable smaller businesses to integrate into their efficient value chains in a productive way, thereby increasing income and creating a more competitive value chain. The concept behind the Inclusive Business approach is to allow the established enterprise to focus on its core activity and sub-contract its non-core or value-adding activities within the supply and value chain to smaller enterprises. The grant is available to established enterprises that demonstrate their engagement in the implementation of the Inclusive Business approach and are subcontracting their non-core activities to smaller businesses. A refund of 15% of the transaction value per annum (with a ceiling of Rs 100,000) per eligible enterprise.

The SME Employment Scheme

This scheme seeks to instil and develop entrepreneurial skills among graduates, and boost their employability while providing SMEs with an injection of fresh talents to support their development. Unemployed graduates who are selected for placement in an SME will be paid a monthly stipend of Rs14,000/- while the Employer will pay only the monthly travelling costs. Unemployed graduates who wish to be enlisted for placement under the SME Employment Scheme in any registered micro, small or medium enterprise for a period of one year, which may be renewed for a further period of one year, should hold at least a first degree in any subject from a recognized tertiary education provider. Applicants meeting the required profile should fill in the Application Form available at https://smemu.org/apply/

The SME Equity fund

This fund is geared towards accompanying and supporting entrepreneurs by financing their projects and expansions. The SME Equity Fund Ltd (SEF) invests in start-ups, expansion projects and new lines of business. SEF provide equity financing to SMEs established in Mauritius, and where the majority shareholder of the SME is a Mauritian national. The investment range starts at Rs500,000/- and can reach up to Rs 25m. The financing provided by SEF should not exceed 49% of the business' equity capital – which means that the entrepreneur must invest in at least 51% of the share capital. The length of investment by SEF into a company can go up to seven years. No penalty fees are incurred if you wish to make an early exit. For more details visit www.smeequityfund.mu

6.2.3 Live Presentation to the members of the Jury

As the Live presentation was the final stage of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition to select the award winning team, nine Teams were assisted to prepare for this live pitch. The Technopreneurship Unit provided guidance to all start-ups to prepare for the live presentation. Also a guide was submitted to all of them to facilitate their preparation in front of the jury members.

6.3 The ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition

The Award Ceremony of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition organised in collaboration with the University of Mauritius and SBM comprised some 150 guests comprising of participants, eminent guests and distinguished personalities from private and public sector were present for the Award Ceremony of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition 2017- 2018 for University Students held on Thursday 25th October 2018 at R. Burenchobay Lecture Theatre, University of Mauritius, Réduit.

The Honourable Yogida Sawmynaden, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation was the chief guest of the 2017- 2018 edition of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition. His presence to the award ceremony was a clear indication of the Ministry of Technology Communication and Innovation commitment's towards creating a Techno-entrepreneurship culture in Mauritius as from University level.

The Honourable Minister mentioned in his address that he was happy to note that this competition was organised for the University students as they have the credentials to be our future pool of Technopreneurs. He also encouraged them to be involved in the development of innovative ICT-enabled solutions with the potential to make a long-lasting impact in national regional and global economies. With this mind-set new jobs will be created for our youths in the current knowledge economy and hence supporting the conversion of Mauritius into a high-income economy.

According to the Honourable Minister, Technology is a field which is creating new business models and thus creating job prospects for many youngsters. He refers to the examples of Smart Health Ltd and Order Manzer which were in the 2016 edition of the ICT innovative Business IDEA but have now turned into reality and is benefitting the whole country. Moreover, he mentioned of Smart Logic supported by the Technopreneurship Unit, is providing the OnTime Mobile app which is a first of its kind in Mauritius as you can in real time know when your bus will reach your stop.

The Minister congratulated all teams and winners who have dared to show their innovative minds by challenging their creativity and capacity to come up with innovative business ideas in ICT for this 2017- 2018 competition and concluded his address with the following

"My Ministry encourages the establishment of such competitions which can open the door of opportunities for many young Mauritians in the national, regional and global market."

6.4 The Winners of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition

The Grand Winner of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition 2017- 2018 was AVR Plato Technology. The team AVR PLATO TECHNOLOGY comprising Ramdin Cassam Muhammad Shameer and Okorn -tabi Hope Tabi won the Grand Prize of Rs100,000 and a shield

Shameer Cassam M Ramdin an Engineer graduated from UOM while Okorn- tabi Hope Tabi is a student of Middlesex University where he is pursuing a Master in Business Informatics System Management. The IDEA of these students was a learning aid mobile application that makes use of Virtual and augmented reality for medical students who find it difficult to learn all the theories. They will make use of this technology since it can be readily used by any individual having a smart phone. This app will make education more interactive and enjoyable by simply using the application and scan a text or image and have an interactive 3D model that they can learn.

The Second Prize Winner of the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition 2017-2018 was TEAM MULTI comprising of Maunthrooa Lavnish and Paupiah Yashvi, both students from Computer science department of the University of Mauritius and they obtained Rs50,000/- cash voucher and a shield.

As per the Team "time is one of the most valuable commodities of human life and it is the only commodity we can't get back once it has been spent". After carefully analysing the food industry in Mauritius, the team observed that there is an ever-growing demand for fast foods. This is so mostly during lunchtime and applies to busy, time-limited workers. The general response of the food industry was to open more and more restaurants which generally are not working. In response to this, the Team Multi came up with an idea to ease the burden on restaurants, save users time and also provide a great consumer experience to the food buying model. The new model will replace an archaic but still in use telephone order system where users need to personally call the restaurant to order their food. The service allows the consumer to choose which restaurant he/she wants to order from, select their meal and set the time where he/she will show up at the premises to take their meal and proceed to payment through the app.

Merit Prize winner, HYDRUS LABS comprising of Bastien David Joshen, graduate from the UOM and Chumroo Vijay Prakash a Post-graduate from University of Western Cape. The Hydrus Lab Team obtained Rs20,000/- and the ICT Innovative Business IDEA Competition 2017- 2018 Shield.

Hydrus Labs Ltd is an innovative start-up providing a series of AI products tuned for the Mauritian Market. Incorporated in 2017, Hydrus Labs Ltd works on the Research and Development of Artificial Intelligence products which include: a Speech-to-text Recognition System, a sentiment analyzer, a Text-to-speech synthesizer and Chatbots all capable of processing the Mauritian Creole. Combined differently, these can be used to create automated call centers, media monitoring systems and social media platforms monitoring systems. Along with our products, we also provide an AI implementation service and provide tailor made AI solutions for Local Businesses. With our team of scientists, we came forward with those cutting edge technologies to solve various business issues and democratize Artificial Intelligence.

6.5 Women in Tech Campaign

To empower girls and Women to choose ICT as their career choice, the Women in Tech Campaign was organized, where video of some 8 Women professionals In ICT were posted on NCB Facebook page starting in March 2019 to end in May 2019.

The National Computer Board organised its first campaign, to empower women and girls to use ICT as their Career Choice during the month of March 2019. As around the world women are underrepresented in the field of Technology, yet the global campaign theme retained by UN "Think equal build smart and innovate for change" continues all year long to encourage action. This NCB campaign also coincided with the Women's day which was celebrated on 8th March 2019. To know the 8 Women in Tech everyone was invited to follow them here https://www.facebook.com/NationalComputerBoard/, the Facebook page of NCB.

The 8 Women in Tech were:

- The Executive Director of National Computer Board: Mrs. Joanne Esmyot
- The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, the secretariat of ITU-D. The Mrs Doreen Bogdan Martin
- Managing Director, Astek Mauritius Ltd: Mrs Jenny Chan
- Managing Director, Spoon Consulting: Mrs Zulaika Sunthbocus
- Director, Vector Technologies Ltd: Mrs Vashinee Bheemul
- Senior Software Engineer, Accenture Ltd: Ms Devina Loganaden
- Managing Director, Safesha Ltd: Mrs Sameera Koyratty
- Associate Professor, University of Mauritius: Mrs shakuntala Baichoo

6.6 The Start-ups

The Technopreneurship Unit provides assistance to start-ups through-out the year among which there were the following:

- Assistance was provided to some 15 Teams to improve their Business Model, Business Plan, Financial Forecasts and Pitching.
- Two Technopreneurship Unit start-ups participated for the ECMAA Awards 2018 which was organised to coincide with "The Africa E-commerce Week". This award was organized by UNCTAD, the African Union and the European Union in Kenya. This Mobile Application Competition offered African Youth the chance as young students and future managers to share their ideas with experts in ICT field during Africa Ecommerce Week in Nairobi. This was an excellent opportunity for Mauritian University students to showcase their innovative Mobile application.
- Assisted Smart Health in working out the analysis of the National telemedicine service.
- Facilitated meeting with DBM on loan facilities offered to start-ups for Smart Logic.
- Assisted Mau art to work out its Business Model canvas.
- Participated as Jury Member for the Inter Village Innovation Competition to select winner of the Competitions.

6.7 TechIdeaSpace

TechIdeaSpace is organized to support nascent start-ups to turn idea to business. The pitching session of the third edition of the TechIdeaSpace was organized in April 2019 where the team Chrysallis impressed the jury members with the game they had designed, followed by their pitching.

6.8 SME Tech-Innov Conference

This 20th June 2019, the National Computer Board operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation organised the SME TECH-INNOV Conference 2019 at the Palms Hotel, Quatre Bornes.

Some 110 participants registered to this first edition of the SME TECH-INNOV Conference. The audience comprised mainly of SME's, MSME's, Start-ups, Women Entrepreneurs Tech Start-ups and potential start-ups among others.

The one day SME TECH-INNOV Conference focussed on the core challenges and the various opportunities that technology and innovation can bring in the way SME's do business. As in this modern era of digital technology, SME's need to be aware of the various technologies that is rapidly changing the markets and the way traditional businesses are being disrupted by Companies using digital technologies.

The morning session of the SME TECH-INNOV Conference 2019 comprised of the following topics:

- How alternative financing schemes can be a key to kick start your innovation journey.
- Reshaping the benefits of cashless economy to start-ups and SMEs
- E-commerce for SMEs: boosting up sales, reducing costs and automating commerce
- In the modern digital era big data, analytics, ai and business intelligence is buzzwords
- Digital marketing for increasing SME reach and online visibility
- Cyber security: what's it got to do with SMEs?

B. THE NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

1. OBJECTIVES

The National Computer Board (NCB) was set up in 1988 by the National Computer Board Act (Act No.43) to promote the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Mauritius. It is a para-statal body administered by a Board of Directors and operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation.

The NCB redefined its strategies to respond more effectively to new national aspirations in view of multi-facetted challenges emerging in the wake of globalization and threatening the very resilience of the country's economy. Its core mission is now to accelerate the transition of Mauritius into a regional ICT hub and ensure the swift realization of government's objective to make of the ICT sector a key pillar of the economy.

Our Vision

To be the key enabler in transforming Mauritius into a Cyber island and the regional ICT hub

Our Mission

To e-power people, businesses and the public sector by developing and promoting ICT and ICT related services in Mauritius.

Core Values

- We are committed to quality and excellence
- We believe in teamwork and partnership
- We are determined to provide professional services to our stakeholders, customers and partners
- We aim at continuous improvement
- We invest in our people

2. COMPOSITION OF BOARD – July 2018 to June 2019

Name	Designation	Representative/Nominee
		Nominee
Mr D. A. Soburrun	Chairperson	Representative of Ministry of Technology,
(from 12 July 2018)		Communication and Innovation
Mr Navindranath Poonye (12 July 2018 to 14 February 2019)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mr N Jugmohunsing (07 March to 24 July 2019)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mrs A Dabeesingh (26 March 2019 & 23 May 2019)	Member	Representative Prime Minister's Office (Home Affairs Division)
Mrs Samiihah Mahamoodally (24 July 2018 – 26 April 2019)	Member	Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Mr Ricaud Auckbur (from 12 July 18 to 24 July 2019)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Education & Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research
Mr Vasheel Seedoyal (from 12 July 18 to 4 July 2019)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms
Mr Avinash Meetoo (from 12 July 18 to 24 July 2019)	Member	Nominee

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3. STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE AT BOARD

During the year July18 to June 19, ten (10) Board meetings were held.

Name of Board Members	No. of Board Meeting attended	Remuneration (Rs)
Mr D.A. Soburrun (Chairperson)	17	359,100
Mr Navindranath Poonye	11	9,790
Mrs Samiihah Mahamoodally	12	10,680
Mr N Jugmohunsing	6	5,340
Mrs A Dabeesingh	2	1,780
Mr R. Auckbur	13	11,570
Mr V. Seedoyal	3	2,670
Mr A. Meetoo	16	14,240

The attendance of Board Members at the meetings was as follows:

4. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

4.1 The National Computer Board (NCB)

The NCB was established by the National Computer Board Act (Act No. 43) 1988 and is a parastatal body administered by a Board of Directors. It operated under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance until 1997 and has been under the responsibility of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology thereafter.

The role of the NCB is to promote the development of ICT in Mauritius, by creating an ICT literate nation, ensuring the existence of an appropriate environment conducive to the fast growth of the ICT sector, promoting ICT usage for the enhancement of productivity and efficiency and is to advise Government in ICT matters. Its objectives, as defined by the NCB Act, are as follows:

- a) To foster the development and growth of information technologies, information systems and computer related services in Mauritius;
- b) To advise the Government on the formulation of national policies in respect of the promotion, development and control of information technology and its applications.
- c) To assist in the framing up of appropriate national education, training and research plans in the field of information technology in order to build the necessary expertise base for the consolidation of the information technology in Mauritius.

The Board is committed to comply with the Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius issued by the National Committee on Corporate Governance.

4.2 The Board

As per section 5 of the NCB Act, the Board shall consist of

- a) A Chairman to be appointed by the Minister
- b) A representative of the Prime Minister's Office
- c) A representative of the Ministry of Finance
- d) A representative of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation
- e) A representative of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources
- f) Representative of the Ministry of Civil service and Administrative Reforms
- g) Not more than five other members appointed by the Minister from among persons with adequate knowledge and experience in the field of information technology, commerce, industry, services and education.

4.3 Meetings of the Board

Subjects to subsections (2) and (3) of the NCB Act, the Board shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

The Board meets at the request of the Chairman or of not less than three (3) members and at such time and place as may be determined by the Chairman.

Four members constitute the quorum.

The Executive Director attends every meeting of the Board and takes part in the deliberations of the Board but does not vote on any matter before the Board.

The Secretary of the Board attends all Board meetings and records the minutes of all meetings.

5. Committees of the Board

By virtue of Section 8 of the NCB Act, the Board has established three Committees namely:

- Staff Committee
- Finance Committee
- Management Committee

The Committees assist the Board by having a comprehensive and in-depth examination of specific issues. Committee meetings are scheduled before Board meetings.

The Committees of the Board consists of Members of the Board but the Board may co-opt such other persons without prejudice to the rule of confidentiality, think fit to designate.

The Chairperson of each Committee then submits its respective recommendations to the Board. The Director attends each Committee meetings. Each Committee has a Secretary who records the minutes of the meetings.

In 2018/19, the three committees of the Board were not re-constituted and every matter was taken directly to the Board.

6. Management Team

- Mrs Esmyot Marie Annick Joanne
- Mr. V. Mulloo Manager, Government Online Centre
- Mrs. L. Chooromoney Manager, ICT Technopreneur
- Mr. A. Seegolam Manager, Government Online Centre
- Mr. I. Limalia Manager, Planning Research and Development
- Mr. K. Usmani Officer in Charge, CERT MU
- Mrs. V. Mulliah Administrative Secretary
- Mr. V. Patansingh Finance and Administration Manager
- Mr Waziim Dilmahomed Manager, GOC

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7. STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY

The National Computer Board (NCB) has prepared the financial statements which give a true and fair view of its financial position and its financial performance as at the financial year end 30 June 2018/19.

The Directors of the Board of NCB confirm that in the preparation of the financial statements for the financial year end 30 June 2018/19:

- appropriate accounting policies and standards have been used, consistently applied and have been supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates;
- the accounting standards which have been followed has been stated and any • material departure disclosed with reasons; and
- the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The audit of the financial statements is carried out by the National Audit Office (NAO).

The auditor is responsible to report on whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are, in all material respects, in compliance with laws and authorities which govern them and that the financial statements are fairly represented.

8. INTERNAL CONTROL

The NCB Board's responsibilities include designing, implementing and maintaining an appropriate internal control mechanism for the preparation and presentation of financial statements which reflect the true and fair financial position of the NCB. It also entails selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. Such Systems ensure that all transactions are authorised and recorded and that any material irregularities are detected and rectified within a reasonable time frame.

9. TRAINING / MISSION

The NCB believes in a competent workforce. For the period July 2018 to 30 June 2019, NCB offered opportunities to staffs to take part in the following courses/workshop.

9.1 Local Training

Staff	Job Title	Training	Organisation					
	Cert Mu							
Mrs Selvana Naiken Gopalla	Information Security Consultant							
Mr Manish Lobin	Information Security Consultant	Training in Cyber	Civil Service College (Online with					
Mrs Jennita Rao Appanah	Information Security Consultant	Security	University of Johannesburg)					
Mr Vijaye Anand Gopaul	Information Security Consultant							
Mr Kaleem Usmani	Officer in Charge, CERT-MU	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd					
		Finance						
Ms Reshma Sayedhossen	Accounts Officer	Forum of Accountants	Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA)					
Mr Vikash Patansingh	Finance & Administration Manager	Conference on Public Procurement Law	Mauritius Management Association					
	Planning, Resear	ch and Development Divisi	on					
Mr Ashwin Seegolam	Ag. Manager, GOC	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd					
Ms Shailaja Seebaluck	Research Officer	Business Analytics Workshop	Open Mind Consulting					
Mr Bheemul Bhowaneedeen	System Administrator	Business Analytics Workshop	Open Mind Consulting					
Mr Reza Soodin	Research Officer	Workshop on the National Recommendation Tracking Database	Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms					

Staff	Job Title Training		Organisation
	Business De	velopment & Promotion	
Mr Ismael Limalia	Ag. Manager	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd
Mr Ved Seebun	Business Analyst	Innovation through Design Thinking	NPCC
Mr Dharmeshsingh Beeharry	Graphic Designer	Innovation through Design Thinking	NPCC
		GOC	
Mrs Satyapriya Busgeeth	Web Developer	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd
Mr Vyankoj Mulloo	Manager, GOC	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd
	-	UIEP	
Mr Vik Bhoyroo	Ex Ag. Executive Director	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd
		Incubator	
Mrs Leena Chooromoney	Manager, Technopreneur Unit	innovationmauritius.com	Doracrea Training Ltd

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9.2 Overseas Training

Sn	Name	Designation	Duration	Purpose of Mission	Organisation
1	Mr Kaleem Usmani	Officer in Charge, CERT-MU	1 - 3 October 2018	Cyber Experts' Fellowship Meeting, London	Protection Group International
2	Mr Manish Lobin	Information Security Consultant	1 - 3 October 2018	Cyber Experts' Fellowship Meeting, London	Protection Group International
3	Mr Sachindra Reechaye	Information Security Consultant	16 - 18 October 2018	African Forum on Cybercrime	African Union Commission and partners
4	Mr Kaleem Usmani	Officer in Charge, CERT-MU	9 - 10 July 2018	Africa Cyber Defence Summit 2018, Nairobi, Kenya	Naseba and Africa Cyberspace Network
5	Mr Vijaye Anand Gopaul	Information Security Consultant	16 - 22 June 2019	31st Annual FIRST Conference & 9th Annual CSIRT meeting, Scotland	CERT International
6	Mr Kaleem Usmani	Officer in Charge, CERT-MU	10 - 12 April 2019	Advanced Cybersecurity Strategy & Policy Implementation Workshop, Germany	US Embassy
7	Mr Manish Lobin	Information Security Consultant	26 - 28 March 2019	nCSIRT Capacity Building Workshop, Ghana	Foreign & Commonwealth Office
8	Mrs Joanne Esmyot	Executive Director	21 - 23 January 2019	TF-CSIRT meeting & FIRST Regional Symposium Europe, Estonia	European Union
9	Mr A. Soburrun	Chairman	21 - 23 January 2019	TF-CSIRT meeting & FIRST Regional Symposium Europe, Estonia	European Union
10	Mr Reza Soodin	Research Officer	3 Sept - 26 Oct 2018	Broadband Technologies and Future Trends	Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management, India

10.SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

As per the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, every employer of 50 or more employees shall establish a Safety and Health Committee. The main purpose of a Safety and Health Committee is to promote and develop safety recognition and hazard prevention. The key roles and functions of the Committee are to:

- Promote co-operation between the employer and the employees in achieving and maintaining safe and healthy working conditions
- Make proposals to the employer on matters regarding the Safety, Health and welfare of employees
- Seek specialist advice on matters regarding Safety, Health and Welfare
- Make recommendations to the employer regarding training requirements and education programmes for particular employees
- Discuss occupational accidents, dangerous occurrences and occupational diseases and make recommendation to the employer
- Do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of the function of the Safety and Health Committee.

The Safety and Health Committee at the NCB constitutes of the following members in 2019:

- Mrs Joanne Esmyot, Chairperson
- Mr Bhusan Somaroo ,Vice- Chairperson
- Mr Ashwin Seegoolam, Member
- Mr Bheemul Bhowaneedeen, Member
- Mrs Leena Chooromoney, Member
- Mrs Chetanyata Devi Bhujun, Member
- Mr Jay Ramaswamy, Secretary

During the period of July 2018 to June 2019, six meetings of the Safety and Health Committee were held. A Fire Drill was held on 18 December 2018 at the National Computer Board.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

On the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency (ex National Computer Board) for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - e-powering people, business public sectors



NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

TO THE BOARD OF THE

MAURITIUS DIGITAL PROMOTION AGENCY (EX NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the National Computer Board

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the National Computer Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and statement of budgets, actual cash and accrued based amounts for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Computer Board as at 30 June 2019, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report. I am independent of the National Computer Board in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the fiancnial statements in Mauritius, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. I have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in my report.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the National Computer Board, but does not include the financial statements and my report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other informatin is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regards.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is reponsible for assessing the National Computer Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseing the National Computer Board's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the fiancial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that included my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, international omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the National Computer Board's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the National Computer Board's ablitity to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the National Computer Board to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial satements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or, when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweight the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management's Responsibilities for Compliance

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In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the National Computer Board's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, I am also responsible to report to the Board whether:

- (a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
- the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so (b) far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;
- in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial (c) statements submitted to me, any expenditure incurred is of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;
- (d) in my opinion, the National Computer Board has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively; and
- the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process (e) have been complied with.

I performed procedures, including the assessment of the risks of material non-compliance, to obtain audit evidence to discharge the above responsibilities.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is suffiient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act

I have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.

As far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records:

- the National Computer Board has complied with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and (a) Audit) Act; and
- no direction relating to the accounts has been issued by the responsible Minister to the (b) National Computer Board.

Based on my examination of the accounts of National Computer Board, nothing has come to my attention that indicates that:

- any expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal (a) commercial practice and prudence; and
- the Board has not applied its resources and carried out its operations economically, (b) efficiently and effectively.

Public Procurement Act

In my opinion, the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with as far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records.

DR. D. PALIGADU Director of Audit

National Audit Office Level 14, Air Mauritius Centre **PORT LOUIS**

25 July 2023

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

 $\label{eq:annual} \textbf{ANNUAL REPORT 2019} \ \text{-} \ \text{e-powering people, business public sectors}$

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		Rs.	Rs.
ASSETS	Notes		
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	16,701,581	20,970,181
Trade & other receivables	9		-)) -
Government Grant		16,461,316	7,087,436
Trade receivables		21,064,791	21,116,715
Inventories	10	348,082	286,115
		54,575,770	49,460,447
Non-current assets			.,,,.,,
Property, plant and equipment	11	49,681,639	36,017,699
Intangible assets	12	20,172,509	13,743,418
Long term loan car loan	9	2,485,768	3,269,711
5		72,339,917	53,030,828
TOTAL ASSETS		126,915,687	102,491,276
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade & other payables	14	21,161,370	15,698,788
		21,161,370	15,698,788
Non-current liabilities			
Long term provisions			
Employee benefits	15	14,607,137	14,222,608
Long term loan -car loan	14(a)	4,350,768	3,269,711
Retirement Benefits Obligations	13	6,262,953	9,308,635
-		25,220,858	26,800,955
		46 292 229	42 400 742
TOTAL LIABILITIES		46,382,228	42,499,742
NET ASSETS		80,533,459	59,991,533
NET ASSETS/EQUITY		90 522 450	50 001 522
General fund		80,533,459	59,991,533
		80,533,459	59,991,533

The Financial Statements were approved by the NCB Board on 12.05.00.3

.....10 Mr D. A. SOBURRUN **CHAIRPERSON**

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۰. At Mrs N. B. ALLYHOSSEN **BOARD MEMBER**

The notes on pages 62 to 79 form part of these financial statements.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Notes	30-Jun-19 Rs.	30-Jun-18 Rs.
Income		Кз.	KS.
Government grant	22	61,573,447	77,150,776
Government on Line Centre		98,338,171	114,511,721
Government on Line Centre - Capital Grant		35,277,425	19,909,047
Universal ICT Education Programme		1,010,899	1,093,400
Infotech		3,604,999	2,112,996
Interest		35,419	36,012
Other income	16	552,768	2,202,028
	_	200,393,129	217,015,981
Expenditure			
Staff costs		43,112,331	38,925,611
Infotech		5,635,585	5,486,712
Planning, Research & Development		1,531,113	1,452,724
Government Online Center		78,991,145	101,005,531
E services		5,680,679	5,058,931
Incubator centre		171,456	157,086
Business, Development & Promotion		1,768,134	216,352
Community Empowerment Programme		65,880	181,170
IT Coach		1,706,427	1,689,890
Universal ICT Education Programme		2,940,387	4,250,656
Cert MU		8,804,141	4,015,847
IST Africa		22,674	82,599
ICT Academy		8,741	122,079
Capital			-
	_	150,438,692	162,645,188
Operating and administrative expenses	23	10,020,152	9,980,759
Depreciation and amortisation	11&12	22,424,807	17,820,647
		182,883,652	190,446,591
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	_	17,509,477	26,569,390
The surprus/ (deficit) for the year		17,507,777	20,307,390

The notes on pages 62 to 79 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR 30 JUNE 2019

FOR THE TEAK 30 JUNE 2017	GENERAL FUND Rs.	TOTAL Rs.
As at 30 June 2018	59,991,533	59,991,533
Remeasurement of IPSAS 39 Recognised in Equity	3,032,449	3,032,449
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	17,509,477	17,509,477
Balance as at 30 June 2019	80,533,459	80,533,459
As at 1 July 2017	51,001,516	51,001,516
Add Adjustment due to restatement of figures for IPSAS 39 for the year ended June 2018	720,286	720,286
Less Adjustment due to restatement of figures for IPSAS 39 for the year ended June 2018	(22,025,025)	(22,025,025)
Remeasurement of IPSAS 39 recognised in Equity	3,029,507	3,029,507
Opening Adjustment	695,859	695,859
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	26,569,390	26,569,390
Balance at 30 June 2018	59,991,533	59,991,533

Prior Year Adjustments have been made in respect of:

(i) Restatement of actuarial valuation of Pension Fund on basis of IPSAS 39 (from IPSAS 25)

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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YAER ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
	-	Rs.	Rs.
Cash flow from operating activities	Notes		
Net surplus for the year		17,509,477	27,265,248
Adjustments for:-			
Depreciation and amortisation		22,424,807	17,820,647
Retirement benefit obligations		3,032,449	576,687
Interest receivable		35,419	36,012
Operating sumly before working conital changes	-	43 002 152	-
Operating surplus before working capital changes	-	43,002,152	45,698,594
Decrease / (increase) in trade and other receivables		(8,538,013)	2,560,801
Decrease /(increase) in inventories		(61,966)	17,759
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other payables	-	3,882,486	(2,998,489)
Cash generated from/(absorbed into) operations	-	(4,717,493)	(419,929)
Net cash flows from operating activities		38,284,658	45,278,665
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(42,517,839)	(32,685,582)
Interest received	_	(35,419)	(36,012)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	=	(4,268,600)	12,557,071
Movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		20,970,181	8,413,111
Cash and cash equivalents at the close of the year	8	16,701,581	20,970,181
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-	(4,268,600)	12,557,070

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STATEMENT OF OUTTURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NC	В	Government (Online Centre	тот	TAL
	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Staff Costs	42,000,000	38,703,656	25,000,000	12,406,905	67,000,000	51,110,561
Advertising	100,000	191,974	100,000	42,296	200,000	234,271
Bank and other Financial Charges	30,000	34,227			30,000	34,227
Committees fees	400,000	481,998			400,000	481,998
Electricity /Utility Charges	1,500,000	948,479	10,000,000	11,682,307	11,500,000	12,630,786
Incidentals & other office expenses	200,000	277,477	400,000	588,958	600,000	866,436
Insurance	100,000	5,858	100,000	-	200,000	5,858
Maintenance and running of vehicles	500,000	95,570		58,080	500,000	153,651
Maintenance of office equipment	800,000	1,076,894	8,000,000	478,771	8,800,000	1,555,665
Maintenance of Software & Licenses			30,000,000	27,471,989	30,000,000	27,471,989
Medical Scheme for the NCB Employees	1,100,000	602,695			1,100,000	602,695
Overseas Mission	500,000	123,532	300,000	24,802	800,000	148,334
Printing, Stationary & Postage	730,000	868,247	400,000	12,133	1,130,000	880,381
Professional & Legal Charges	700,000	461,700			700,000	461,700
Rent of Office Premises	3,840,000	3,957,474	10,000,000	9,954,768	13,840,000	13,912,242
Telephone & Fax	2,000,000	1,845,246	100,000	184,063	2,100,000	2,029,309
IT Skills Development Program	100,000	60,972	300,000	42,294	400,000	103,265
Training of Staff	500,000	127,000	300,000		800,000	127,000
GOC Tel Lines				24,413,785		24,413,785
Miscellaneous	100,000	61,358			100,000	61,358
Conferences/Seminars/Workshops	300,000	72,800			300,000	72,800
Projects					-	-
Infotech	1,000,000	7,020,334			1,000,000	7,020,334
Planning, Research & Development	8,500,000	3,088,781			8,500,000	3,088,781
Government Online Center - Consultancy	r i i			963,100	-	963,100
E Services	-	5,680,679			-	5,680,679
Incubator centre	-	171,099			-	171,099
Business, Development & Promotion	2,300,000	1,582,923			2,300,000	1,582,923
CEP	-	65,880			-	65,880
IT Coach	-	2,691,729			-	2,691,729
UIEP	6,500,000	2,950,616			6,500,000	2,950,616
Cert MU	2,500,000	8,366,392			2,500,000	8,366,392
Total recurrent expenditure	76,300,000	81,615,592	85,000,000	88,324,253	161,300,000	169,939,844
Capital Expenditure						
Government Online Centre			45,000,000	33,567,088	45,000,000	33,567,088
NCB Capital	1,550,000	991.179		-	1,550,000	991,179
ACTMS	40,000,000	1,190,950	-	-	40,000,000	1,190,950
Total expenditure capitalised	41,550,000	2,182,128	45,000,000	33,567,088	86,550,000	35,749,216
Total Expenditure	117,850,000	83,797,720	130.000.000	121,891,340	247,850,000	205,689,060
i otar Experiment	117,000,000	03,171,120	150,000,000	121,071,040	277,030,000	205,007,000

Outturn for the fiscal year 2019 has been presented on a cash basis. Reasons for variances between budget and outturn are explained on page 60

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NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD STATEMENT OF BUDGETS, ACTUAL CASH AND ACCRUED BASED AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Received / Paid	Financial Statements
Revenue	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Recurrent Grant	76 200 000	76 200 000	54,670,791	54 670 701
Capital Grant	76,300,000 41,550,000	76,300,000 41,550,000	, ,	54,670,791
Government Online Centre	41,330,000 85,000,000	41,330,000 85,000,000	6,902,656 99,622,887	6,902,656 98,338,171
GOC Capital	45,000,000	45,000,000	35,277,425	35,277,425
Universal ICT Education Programme	43,000,000	43,000,000	1,010,900	1,010,899
Infotech			2,980,000	3,604,999
Interest			35,420	35,419
Other income			138,768	552,768
Ouler meome	247,850,000	247,850,000	200,638,847	200,393,129
Expenditure	247,030,000	247,050,000	200,030,047	200,575,127
•	12 000 000	12 000 000	20 702 (5(42 512 020
Staff Costs	42,000,000	42,000,000	38,703,656	42,512,930
Advertising	100,000	100,000	191,974	294,642
Bank and other Financial Charges Committees fees	30,000 400,000	30,000	34,227 481,998	34,572
Electricity	,	400,000	481,998 948,479	456,432
Incidentals & other office expenses	1,500,000 200,000	1,500,000 200,000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	893,778 277,227
Insurance	100,000	100,000	277,477 5,858	113,486
Maintenance and running of vehicles	500,000	500,000	95,570	115,919
Maintenance & repairs of office equipment &	500,000	500,000	,5,570	115,717
Premises	800,000	800,000	1,076,894	1,088,522
Medical Scheme for the NCB Employees	1,100,000	1,100,000	602,695	599,400
Overseas Mission	500,000	500,000	123,532	284,259
Printing, Stationary & Postage	730,000	730,000	868,247	325,347
Professional & Legal Charges	700,000	700,000	461,700	370,200
Rent of Office Premises	3,840,000	3,840,000	3,957,474	3,129,485
Telephone & Fax	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,845,246	1,870,788
IT Skills Development Program	100,000	100,000	60,972	60,094
Training of Staff	500,000	500,000	127,000	127,000
Miscellaneous	100,000	100,000	61,358	110,192
Conferences/Seminars/Workshops	300,000	300,000	72,800	72,800
General Expenses				395,412
Depreciation				22,424,807
Projects:				
Infotech	1,000,000	1,000,000	7,020,334	5,635,585
Planning, Research & Development	8,500,000	8,500,000	3,088,781	1,531,113
Government Online Center - Operation Cost	85,000,000	85,000,000	63,910,468	78,991,145
Government Online Center - Tel Lines			24,413,785	
E Services			5,680,679	5,680,679
Incubator centre			171,099	171,456
Business, Development & Promotion	2,300,000	2,300,000	1,582,923	1,768,134
CEP			65,880	65,880
IT Coach			2,691,729	1,706,427
UIEP	6,500,000	6,500,000	2,950,616	2,940,387
Cert MU	2,500,000	2,500,000	8,366,392	8,804,141
IST Africa				22,674
ICT Academy Total recurrent expenditure	161,300,000	161,300,000	169,939,845	8,741 182,883,652
-				,000,002
Capital Expenditure	45 000 000	45 000 000	22 567 000	20 202 202
Government Online Centre Capital	45,000,000	45,000,000	33,567,088	39,298,392
NCB Capital ACTMS	1,550,000 40,000,000	1,550,000 40,000,000	991,179	1,046,223
Total expenditure capitalised	<u>40,000,000</u> 86,550,000	<u>40,000,000</u> 86,550,000	1,190,950 35,749,216	40,344,614
Total Expenditure	247,850,000	247,850,000	205,689,061	223,228,266

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STATEMENT SHOWING REASONS FOR VARIANCES BETWEEN BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

			Variances	
Revenue	Budget	Actual	between	Comments
Revenue	Duuget	Actual	Budget and Actual	Comments
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Recurrent Grant	76,300,000	54,670,791	21,629,209	Fund disbursed by MTCI based on Actual Expenditure
Capital Grant	41,550,000	6,902,656	34,647,344	Implementation on hold as there was a need for legal provisioning
Government Online Centre	85,000,000	99,622,887	(14,622,887)	Fund disbursed by MTCI based on Actual Expenditure
GOC Capital	45,000,000	35,277,425	9,722,575	Fund disbursed by MTCI based on Actual Expenditure
Universal ICT Education Programme	-	1,010,900		Income from IC3 Training
Infotech	-	2,980,000		Income from sale of stands
Interest	-	35,420	(35,420)	
Other income	- 247.850.000	138,768 200,638,847	(138,768)	
=	247,830,000	200,038,847		
			Variances	
Expenditure	Budget	Actual	between	Comments
	Bunger		Budget and	
			Actual	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Staff Costs	42,000,000	38,703,656		Vacant position was not filled
Advertising	100,000	191,974	(91,974)	Increase in expenses due to advert of vacancies and procurement notices
Bank and other Financial Charges	30,000	34,227		Increae in bank charges
Committees fees	400,000	481,998		Payment based on number of board meetings
Electricity	1,500,000	948,479		Amount over provided
Incidentals & other office expenses	200,000	277,477		Increase in office consumables
Insurance	100,000	5,858	94,142	Amount over provided
Maintenance and running of vehicles	500,000	95,570	404,430	Decrease in maintenance and repairs as one car was acquired and one was disposed
Maintenance & repairs of office equipment $\boldsymbol{\delta}$	800,000	1,076,894		Maintenance carried at NCB Offices
Medical Scheme for the NCB Employees	1,100,000	602,695	497,305	NCB contributed 5% of premium for employees in medical scheme
Overseas Mission	500,000	123,532	376,468	Savings as NCB participated in donor funded missions
Printing, Stationary & Postage	730,000	868,247	,	Increase in office consumables
Professional & Legal Charges	700,000	461,700		Amount over provided
Rent of Office Premises	3,840,000	3,957,474		Payment of syndic fees
Telephone & Fax	2,000,000	1,845,246		Amount over provided
IT Skills Development Program	100,000	60,972		Payment to university graduates based on number of trainees Savings under the item
Training of Staff Subscription to International Organisation	500,000 100,000	127,000		No subscriptions due for the financial year
Miscallaneous	100,000	61,358	(61,358)	
Conferences/Seminars/Workshops	300,000	72,800		Savings under the item
Projects Infotech	1,000,000	7,020,334	(6.020.334)	Funded from income
Planning, Research & Development	8,500,000	3,088,781	5,411,220	Delay in the implementation of projects due to non-responsive
Government Online Center - Operation Cost	85,000,000	63,910,468		bids Savings under the item. Funded positions were not filled
Government Online Center - Tel Lines	-	24,413,785		Amount not budgeted. Fund provided by parent Ministry.
E Services	-	5,680,679		Expenditure incurred from GOC Budget.
Incubator centre	-	171,099		Expenditure incurred from NCB Budget.
Business, Development & Promotion	2,300,000	1,582,923	717,077	Delay in the implementation of projects due to non-responsive bids
CEP	-	65,880	(65,880)	Amount not budgeted.
IT Coach	-	2,691,729	(2,691,729)	Expenditure incurred for running of cybercaravan
UIEP	6,500,000	2,950,616	3,549,384	Delay in the implementation of projects as the procurement exercise was above the cost estimate
Cert MU	2,500,000	8,366,392	(5,866,392)	Payment released for consultancy fee for ACTMS
Government Online Centre Capital	45,000,000	33,567,088	11 432 912	Delay in commissioning of projets
NCB Capital	1,550,000	991,179	558,821	Demy in commissioning of projets
ACTMS	40,000,000	1,190,950		Implemenation on hold as there was a need for legal provisioning
			20,000,000	
=	247,850,000	205,689,061		

STATEMENT SHOWING RECONCILIATION OF ACTUAL CASH FLOWS WITH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	30 June 2019 Rs.
Actual revenue	200,638,847
Government Online Centre	(1,284,715)
Infotech Other income	624,999
	414,000
Recurrent Revenue as per Statement of finacial performance	200,393,131
	30 June 2019
	Rs.
Actual recurrent expenditure as per statement of outturn	169,939,845
Provisions and accruals	
Staff Costs	3,809,274
Advertising	102,667
Bank and other Financial Charges	345
Committees fees	(25,566)
Electricity Incidentals & other office expenses	(54,701) (251)
Insurance	107,628
Maintenance and running of vehicles	20,348
Maintenance & repairs of office equipment & Premises	11,628
Medical Scheme for the NCB Employees	(3,295)
Overseas Mission	160,726
Printing, Stationary & Postage	(542,900)
Professional & Legal Charges	(91,500)
Rent of Office Premises	(827,989)
Telephone & Fax	25,542
IT Skills Development Program Miscallaneous	(878) 48,834
General Expenses	395,412
Depreciation	22,424,807
Projects	
Infotech	(1,384,750)
Planning, Research & Development	(1,557,668)
Government Online Center - Tel Lines	15,080,677
Government Online Center - Operation Cost	(24,413,785)
Incubator centre	357
Business, Development & Promotion	185,211
IT Coach	(985,302)
UIEP Cert MU	(10,229) 437,749
IST Africa	22,674
ICT Academy	8,741
Recurrent expenditure as per statement of financial performance	182,883,652

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The National Computer Board (NCB) was established as a body corporate under the National Computer Board Act (Act No.43) in 1988 to promote the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Mauritius, to advise the Government of Mauritius on the formulation of national policies in respect of the promotion, development and control of information technology and its applications, and to assist in the framing of appropriate national education, training and research plans in the field of information technology.

It is a para-statal body administered by a Board of Directors and operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation.

Further information about the NCB's activities over the last years is available on the web site http://www.ncb.mu and the address of the registered office of NCB is as follows:

National Computer Board 7th Floor, Stratton Court La Poudriere Street Port Louis

2 BASIS OF PREPARATION

(a) In accordance with amendments brought in the Statutory Bodied (Accounts and Audit) Act by the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act No.10 OF 2010, the Financial Statement have been prepared in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Board (IPSASB) which is Board of the International Federation of Accounting Committee (IFAC).

When an IPSAS does not address a particular issue, the appropriate International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and International Accounting Standards (IASs) of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are applied.

(b) Basis of preparation

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The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. They have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IPSAS and generally accepted accounting practices requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

The Financial Statements are presented in Mauritian Rupees (MUR), rounded to the nearest rupee.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

3 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements of the National Computer Board comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act 1982 (as subsequently amended) and have been prepared in accordance with the International Public sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) isseud by the International Public Sector Accounting Board (IPSASB) which is a Board of the International Federation of Accountants Committee (IFAC)

4 USE OF JUDGEMENT AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities, at the reporting date. Some actual results may differ from these estimates, but they are not expected to be materially different.

Judgements and estimates are continuously evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations and assumptions concerning future events that are believed to be reasonable under the

5 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year except that with the adoption revised IPSAS, effective for financial periods beginning on or after 01 June 2019 various disclosures are required.

The following IPSAS were in issue but effective as at 30 June 2018 and there has not been early adoption of these standards.

IPSAS

Effective Date

IPSAS 40Public Sector CombinationsEffective from 1 January 2019IPSAS 41Financial Instrument Recognition and MeasurementEffective from 1 January 2022IPSAS 42Accounting for Social Benefits ExpenditureEffective from 1 January 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the organisation and the revenue can be readily measured.

Besides the government grant, the National Computer Board receives interest income from its call deposits bank accounts. The interest income from the call deposits are recognised on a time-proportion basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable.

(b) Foreign currency translation

Transactions in a currency other than the MUR ("foreign currency") are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time the transactions are entered into. At the balance sheet date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into MUR at exchange rates prevailing at such date. Exchange differences arising are taken to the income statement.

Currency translation gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

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Items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. The cost of property, plant and equipment at 1 July 2005, the National Computer Board's date of transition to IFRSs, was determined by reference to its historical cost less accumulated depreciation at that date.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Borrowing costs related to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets are recognised as profit or loss as incurred.

Subsequent costs are included in the assets carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Board and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

When parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

Gains and losses on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment, and are recognised net within "other income" in profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the revaluation surplus reserve are transferred to general funds.

Depreciation is recognised in the income statement on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment (Continued)

The estimated useful lives for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

Fixed assets	Expected useful life (Years)	Rates of depreciation per annum
Motor vehicles	10	10%
Office equipment	5	20%
Fixtures and fittings	5	20%

(e) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the National Computer Board has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events which it is probable will result in an outflow of economic benefits that can be reasonably estimated.

(f) Government grants

The National Computer Board receives annual grant from the Government of Mauritius to meet its administrative, operational expenses, project expenditures, the Government Online Center, other projects under the management of the National Computer Board and to organise events to promote the ICT sector in Mauritius.

Any surplus in the grant is credited in the National Computer Board's general funds for future use.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of all cash balance and call deposits. Bank overdraft that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the National Computer Board's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flow.

(h) Retirement benefit costs

State plan

Contributions to the National Pension Scheme are charged to the Income Statement in the period in which they fall due.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(h) Retirement benefit costs (Continued)

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution retirement benefit plans are recognized as an expense when employees have rendered service entitling them to the contributions.

For defined retirement benefit plans, the cost of providing benefits is determined using the Projected Unit Credit Method, with actuarial valuations being carried out at each balance sheet date. Actuarial gains and losses that exceed 10 per cent of the greater of the present value of the Board's defined benefit obligation and the fair value of plan assets are amortised over the expected average remaining working lives of the participating employees. Past service cost is recognized immediately to the extent that the benefits are already vested, and otherwise is amortised on a straight-line basis over the average period until the benefits become vested.

The retirement benefit obligations recognized in the balance sheet represents the present value of the defined benefit obligations as adjusted for unrecognized actuarial gains and losses and unrecognized past service cost, and as reduced by the fair value of plan assets. Any asset resulting from this calculation is limited to unrecognized actuarial losses and past service cost, plus the present value of available refunds and reductions in future contributions to the plan.

Employee leave entitlement

Employee entitlements to bank sick leave as defined in the PRB 2016 Report (the regulatory body for remuneration of National Computer Board's employees) are recognized as and when they accrue to employees. An accrual is made for the estimated liability for bank sick leave.

(i) Inventories

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The items in the inventories have been acquired for the sole use of the National Computer Board and is normally consumed within 3 months after the balance sheet date. These items are not re-sold on an open market and they are measured at cost on a FIFO basis.

(j) Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when the Board becomes a party to the contractual provision of the instrument. The Board's accounting policies in respect of the main financial instruments are set out below:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(j) Financial instruments (Continued)

(i) Fair values

The carrying amount of the financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their fair values due.

(ii) Trade and other receivables

Accounts receivables are initially recognised at fair value. As the institution has has been set up for the purpose of fostering entrepreneurship and the promotion of ICT in the Mauritian society, the National Computer Board does not charge any interest on dues. Nevertheless, the National Computer Board has set up an effective debt collection system and the directors estimate that the actual accounts receivable does not materially differ from that had they been at amortised cost.

(iii) Trade and other payables

Amounts payables are initially measured at fair value, and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(k) Risk Management Policies

The National Computer Board adopts a conservative approach to Risk Management. A description of the significant risk factors are given below together with the relevant risk management policies:

Credit risk

The Board is a para-statal body. Its operations are wholly financed by Government grants. On the other hand it derives a significant portion of its "other income" from the provision of services to counterparties which are other public bodies (ministries, departments and other parastatal bodies. The Board's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables from these counterparties given the nature of their relationship.

Credit risk also relates to the possibility of default by employees in settling their car loan obligations towards the National Computer Board. The National Computer Board has established a "Lien" policy on cars purchased by those employees who benefit from such car loans.

Currency risk

The company pays its USD invoices through its USD bank account, but it is exposed to translation risk.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(k) Risk Management Policies (Continued)

Liquidity risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and the availability of funding through an adequate amount of credit facilities. In order to ensure adequacy of its funding, regarding its obligations to meet both operational and capital requirements, cash flow forecasts are prepared regularly and actions taken accordingly.

(l) Intangible asset

The intangible asset represents application software acquired by the National Computer Board in the current and preceding periods. It is measured at cost less accumulated amortisation. The useful lives of the software is 5 years.

(m) General fund

General fund represents the accumulated surpluses and deficits of the National Computer Board.

(n) Taxation

The National Computer Board Act exempt the Board from the repayment of any rate or charge leviable on immovable property or any tax leviable on income.

(o) Segment Information

Segment information, as per IPSAS 18, is based on the NCB's programs prepared under the Program Based Budget. All expenses directly related to a segment have been allocated to it. Other running expenses have been apportioned on the basis of staff costs of each segment. The assets and liabilities are jointly used by the segments and are not separately disclosed.

Expenses related to running of each segment are disclosed in Statement of Outturn.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

7 STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Comparison of Budgeted and Actual Amounts at page 53 shows the budgetary results reconciled with the results after IPSAS adjustments for the period as reported in the financial statements. IPSAS adjustments are accounting entries required to conform to IPSAS and are not Part of the Board's budgetary reporting. These adjustments principally concern accrual accounting relating to expenses and revenues, property, plant and equipment and related amortization, depreciation and impairment together with provisions deemed necessary.

In order to reconcile the budget outturn results to the results after IPSAS adjustments for the period, differences between budget accounting and accrual accounting need to be taken into account. The most significant of these differences are the following:

- (a) In budget accounting, revenue is required to cover all committed expenditures. In accrual accounting, revenue and expenses only includes amounts corresponding to amounts accruing to the period. The difference is treated as deferred revenue or expenses in accrual accounting.
- (b) In budget accounting, capital expenditures are recorded as current year expenses. In accrual accounting this expense is capitalised and depreciated over the useful lives of the assets. These capital expenditures and associated depreciation are recorded at their net value as assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Depreciation expense is recorded in the Statement of Financial Performance.
- (c) In budget accounting, expenditure for employee benefits is accounted for on a pay as you go basis as is the case for payments of pensions on retirement. In accrual accounting, the expense is estimated by an actuary in accordance with a methodology set out in accounting standards. Basically, the pension and post-employment benefits obligation is to be reported in the Statement of Financial Position.
- (d) In budget accounting, revenue is recorded during fiscal year 2019, on a 12 month period on a cash basis. In accrual accounting these revenues are recorded as revenue when the client is billed and adjusted by provisions for bad debts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

8.	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		Rs.	Rs.
	Cash deposited in MUR Account Cash deposited in USD Account Cash deposited in EURO Account	14,600,148 838,115 1,263,318	18,885,370 814,719 1,270,092
		16,701,581	20,970,181
9.	TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		Rs.	Rs.
	Income receivables: Government Grant Trade receivables Car loan (see note below) Other receivables	16,461,316 15,673,581 1,670,216 3,720,994	7,087,436 11,826,509 1,556,489 7,733,716
		37,526,107	28,204,151
		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
	(a) Car Loan	Rs.	Rs.
	Balance as at 1 July Repayment during the year Additions during the year Balance as at 30 June Less: Amount due within one year Amount falling due after more than one year	4,826,200 (1,670,216) 1,000,000 4,155,984 (1,670,216) 2,485,768	5,413,136 (1,501,935) 915,000 4,826,200 (1,556,489) 3,269,711
10.	INVENTORIES		
		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		Rs.	Rs.
	Stores and office stationery	348,082	286,115

Note: All stocks are at cost

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All costs of inventories have been expensed during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Motor vehicles	Office equipment	Furniture and fittings	Total
COST/ VALUATION	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
At 01 July 2018 Diposal	5,202,723	234,434,076	20,246,314	259,883,113
Additions		32,021,952	-	32,021,952
At 30 June 2019	5,202,723	266,456,029	20,246,314	291,905,065
DEPRECIATION				
At 01 July 2018 Diposal	3,443,356	200,340,073	20,081,985	223,865,414
Charge for the year	520,272	17,776,905	60,834	18,358,012
At 30 June 2019	3,963,629	218,116,979	20,142,819	242,223,426
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30 June 2019	1,239,095	48,339,050	103,495	49,681,639
At 01 July 2018	1,759,367	34,094,003	164,329	36,017,699

Note:

The Board is of the opinion that the net book value of the property, plant and equipment approximates its fair value.

	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
12. INTANGIBLE ASSETS Computer Software: Cost	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance at 01 July 2018	97,189,824	83,200,042
Acquisitions	10,495,886	13,989,782
Ending balance at 30 June 2019	107,685,710	97,189,824
Amortisation and impairment losses		
Balance at 01 July 2018	83,446,406	79,316,211
Charge for the year	4,066,795	4,130,195
Balance at 30 June 2019	87,513,201	83,446,406
Carrying amounts:		
At 30 June 2019	20,172,509	13,743,418

13 RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION

Defined Benefit Plan

Provision for the retirement benefits for the NCB staff are made under the Statutory Bodies Pension Act of 1978 as amended and in accordance with the IPSAS 39. The Fund provides retirement benefits for its employees through a defined benefit plan called "the National Computer Board (NCB) staff pension fund". The NCB Staff Pension Fund is a defined benefit plan and its assets are managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM). The cost of providing the benefit is determined in accordance with an actuarial review. The net liability at balance sheet date is determined as the present value of funded obligations after adjusting for the fair value of the plan assets, any unrecognised actuarial gains and losses and any recognised transition amount. The current service cost and any recognised past service cost are included as an expense together with the interest cost, net of expected return on plan assets. The pension plan is a final salary defined benefit plan for staff and is wholly funded.

A portion of the actuarial gain and losses will be recognized as income and expenses if the net cumulative and recognized actuarial gain and losses at the:

- (a) 10% of the present value of the defined benefits obligations at that date; and
- (b) 10% of the fair value of the plan asset at that date.

As from this Financial Year, IPSAS 39 has replaced IPSAS 25 with significant changes. The main areas of change are as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

IPSAS 25 permits public sector entities to defer the recognition of certain actuarial gains and losses arising from defined benefit plans (the "corridor approach"). IPSAS 39 removed the "corridor approach". This means that the actuarial gains and losses are recognized immediately in the Balance Sheet. The re-measurements are recognized in Net Assets/Equity in the period in which they occur. A surplus is recognized as a net defined benefit asset and a deficit as a net defined benefit liability.

Statement of Financial Performance

As regards the Statement of Financial Performance the two items (interest cost and expected return) has been replaced by a single item: the "Net Interest Expense/Revenue". For this purpose, the assumption for the discount rate and the expected rate of return on plan assets will be the

Other Changes

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• More disclosures in terms of description of risk exposure, plan amendments and actuarial assumptions used.

• Sensitivity analysis, i.e, the effect of a change in each major actuarial assumption on the Defined Benefit Obligation (DBO).

• IPSAS 39 makes explicit that mortality assumptions used to determine the defined benefit obligation are the best estimate of the mortality of plan members both during and after employment.

The assets in the funded plan are held independently and are administered by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM).

The following employee benefits information is based on the report submitted by the SICOM as at 30 June 2019.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
	Rs.	Rs.
RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (Continued)		
Amounts recognised in statement of financial position at the end of the	year	
Defined benefit obligation	60,666,328	58,466,416
Fair value of plan assets	(54,403,375)	(49,157,781
Liability recognised in statement of financial position at end of year	6,262,953	9,308,635
Amounts recognised in statement of financial performance:		
Service cost:		
Current service cost	3,162,712	3,109,630
(Employee contributions)	(1,548,186)	(1,649,801
Fund expenses	135,910	89,203
Interest cost	558,609	782,069
Expected return on plan assets	2,309,045	2,331,101
Remeasurement		
Liability (gain)/loss	(3,977,910)	(1,632,061
Assets (gain)/loss	945,461	(1,397,446
Net Assets/Equity (NAE)	(3,032,449)	(3,029,507
	(723,404)	(698,406

At start of year	9,308,635	12,481,742
Amount recognised in P&L	2,309,045	2,331,101
(Contributions paid by employer)	(2,322,278)	(2,474,701)
Amount recognised in NAE	(3,032,449)	(3,029,507)
At end of year	6,262,953	9,308,635

The plan is a defined benefit arrangement for the employees and it is a funded plan. The assets of the funded plan are held independently and administered by The State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		(18 Months)
RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (Continued)	Rs.	Rs.
Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation		
Present value of obligation at start of period	58,466,416	54,584,57
Current service costs	3,162,712	3,109,63
Interest costs	4,092,649	3,820,92
(Benefits paid)	(1,077,539)	(1,416,65
Liability (gain) / loss	(3,977,910)	(1,632,06
Present value of obligations at end of period	60,666,328	58,466,41
Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	49,157,781	42,102,83
Expected return on plan assets	3,534,040	3,038,85
Employer contributions	2,322,278	2,474,70
Employee contributions	1,548,186	1,649,80
Benefits paid and other outgo	(1,213,449)	(1,505,85
Asset gain/(loss)	(945,461)	1,397,44
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	54,403,375	49,157,78
Distribution of plan assets at end of period		
Percentage of assets at end of year	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
Government securities and cash	58.70%	59.50
Loans	3.40%	3.70
Local equities	13.10%	14.60
Overseas bonds and equities	24.20%	21.60
Property	0.60%	0.60
Total	100.00%	100.00
Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity		
numorum disclosure on assess issued of used by the reporting entity	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
Percentage of assets at end of year	(%)	(%)
Assets held in the entity's own financial instruments	0	0
Property occupied by the entity	0	0
Other assets used by the entity	0	0
Components of the amount recognized in NAE		
Year	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
Currency	Rs	Rs
Asset experience gain/(loss) during the period	(945,461)	49,157,78
Liability experience gain/(loss) during the period	3,977,910	(58,466,41
	3,032,449	(9,308,63
Year	2019/2020	
Expected employer contributions	2,696,363	
Weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation (Calculated as a % change in PV of liabilities for a 1% change in discount r	20 years	

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NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2019

The plan is exposed to actuarial risks such as: investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk and salary risk. The risk relating to death in service benefits is re-insured.

The cost of providing the benefits is determined using the Projected Unit Method. The principal assumptions used for the purpose of the actuarial valuation were as follows:

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	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18	
Discount rate	7.00%	7.00%	
Future salary increases	4.50%	4.50%	
Future pension increases	3.50%	3.50%	
Mortality before retirement	A 6770 Ultimate Tables		
Mortality in retirement	Pa 90 Tables	Pa 90 Tables rated	
-		down by 2 years	
Retirement age	As per second Sche	dule in the Statutory	
Retirement age	Bodies Pension Funds Act		

The discount rate is determined by reference to market yields on bonds.

Significant actuarial assumptions for determination of the defined benefit obligation are discount rate, expected salary increase and mortality. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based reasonably on possible changes of the assumptions occuring at the end of the reporting period.

If the discount rate would be 100 basis points (one percent) higher (lower), the defined benefit obligation would decrease by Rs 10.7M (increase by Rs 13.9M) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.

If the expected salary growth would increase (decrease) by 100 basis points, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 8.4M (decrease by Rs 7.0M) if all assumptions were held unchanged.

If life expectancy would increae (decrease) by one year, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 1.6M (decrease by Rs 1.6M) if all assumptions were held unchanged.

In reality one might expect interrelationships between the assumptions, especially between discount rate and expected salary increases, given that both depends to a certain extent on expected inflation rates. The analysis above abstracts from these interdependence between the assumptions.

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	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	Rs.	Rs.
Car loan (see note below)	1,670,216	1,556,489
Provision for passage benefits	900,000	900,000
Provision for Sick Leave	1,519,980	1,519,980
Provision for Professional Fees : Audit Fees	400,000	400,000
: Legal Fees	48,000	48,000
Other payables	16,623,174	11,274,319
-	21,161,370	15,698,788
(a) Car Loan		
Balance as at 1 July	4,826,200	5,413,136
Repayment during the year	(1,670,216)	(1,501,935)
New car loan issued during the year	1,000,000	915,000
New car loan not yet issued during the year	1,865,000	
Balance as at 30 June	6,020,984	4,826,200
Less: Amount due within one year	(1,670,216)	(1,556,489)
Amount falling due after more than one year	4,350,768	3,269,711
15. EMPLOYESS BENEFIT		
Provision for Passage Benefits	2,322,162	2,004,408
Provision for Sick Leave	12,284,975	12,218,200
Retirement Benefits Obligation	14,607,137	14,222,608
(a) Provision for Passage Benefits		
Balance as at 1 July	2,904,408	2,765,996
Paid during the year	(1,282,467)	(1,143,461)
Provision for the year	1,600,221	1,281,873
Balance as at 30 June	3,222,162	2,904,408
Less: Amount due within one year	900,000	900,000
Amount falling due after more than one year	2,322,162	2,004,408
(b) Provision for sick leave		
Balance as at 1 July	13,738,180	12,208,919
Paid during the year	(1,380,484)	(1,267,108)
Provision for sick leave	1,447,258	2,796,369
Balance as at 30 June	13,804,955	13,738,180
Less: Amount due within one year	1,519,980	1,519,980
Amount falling due after more than one year	12,284,975	12,218,200

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
		Rs.	Rs.
16.	OTHER INCOME		
	IT coach	11,000	-
	Computer Security Day	536,118	724,594
	Miscellaneous Income	5,650	1,195,266
	CERT MU	-	266,046
	Exchange gain		16,122
		552,768	2,202,028

17 LEASE OBLIGATIONS

National Computer Board (NCB)

The National Computer Board is located at Stratton court building in Port Louis. It occupies a space area of 9,508 Sq. ft which comprises of the 2nd, 5th, 7th and 8th floors.

Government online Centre (GOC)

The Government online centre is located on the 5th floor, Cyber Tower I Ebene with an area space of 1,352.4 Sq. M.

18 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There have been no material events after the reporting period which would require disclosure or adjustment to the financial statements for the ended 30 June 2019.

19 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The IPSAS figures for NCB Pension Plan was restated as follows:				
Retirement Benefit Obligation	Original Amt	Restated Amt		
	8,966,597	9,308,635		

The movement was recorded in the net asset and equity.

20 RELATED PARTY

Related parties are considered to be related if one party has ability to control the other party in making financial operating decisions. Related party transaction were carried out at commercial terms and conditions. All eligible officers in the National Computer Board are granted duty free facilities and loans for purchase of a car as prescribed in the PRB reports.

21 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The National Computer Board is managed by key personnel that includes the Executive Director, Managers, and other key staff

who are responsible for operating the various activities of the Board. Their remunerations are governed by the PRB Report 2016.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
	Rs.	Rs.
22 GOVERNMENT GRANT		
Recurrent	54,670,791	77,150,776
Capital	6,902,656	
	61,573,447	77,150,776

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

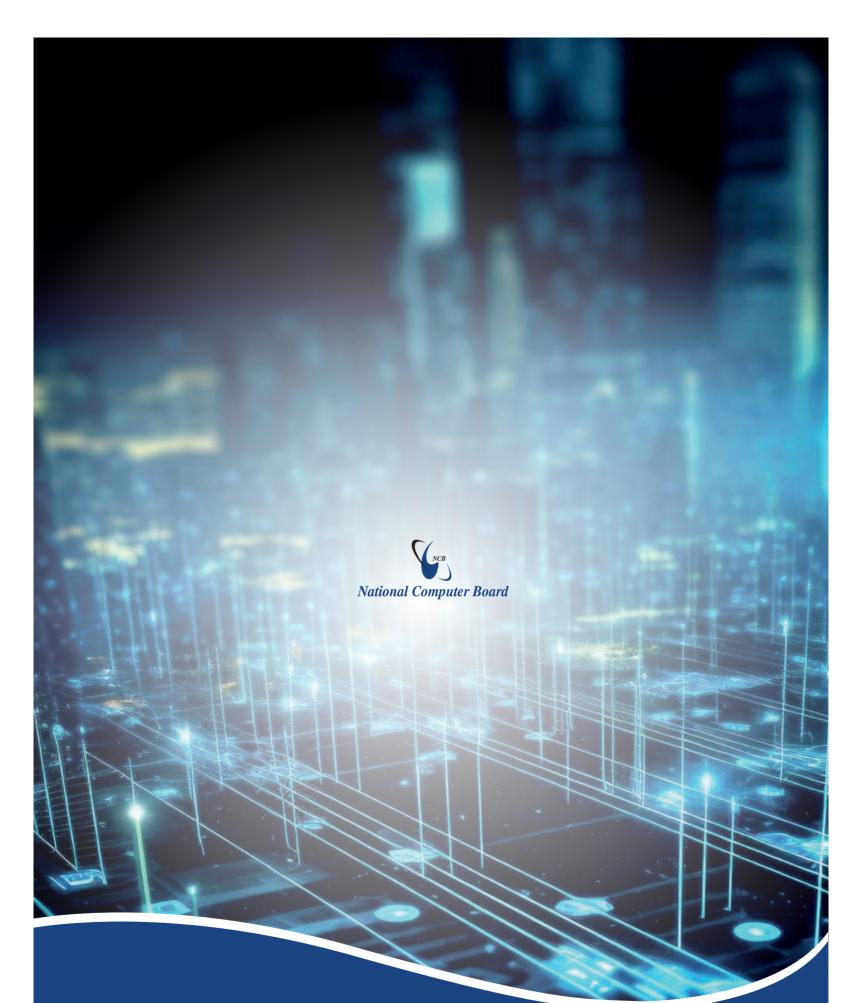
	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18
	Rs.	Rs.
3 EXPENDITURE DIRECT EXPENSES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJEC	CTS	
Infotech	5,635,585	5,486,712
Planning, Research & Development	1,531,113	1,452,724
Government Online Center	78,991,145	101,005,531
E services	5,680,679	5,058,931
Incubator centre	171,456	157,086
Business, Development & Promotion (3D Printing Centres)	1,768,134	216,352
CEP	65,880	181,170
IT Coach	1,706,427	1,689,890
UIEP	2,940,387	4,250,656
Cert MU	8,804,141	4,015,847
IST Africa	22.674	4,015,847
ICT Academy	8,741	122,079
	0,741	122,079
	107,326,362	123,719,576
OPERATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Staff costs	43,112,331	38,925,611
IT skill development	60,094	136,080
Advertising	294,642	313,550
Bank charges	34,572	87,460
Board members fees	456,432	247,924
Utilities	893,778	894,783
Insurance	113,486	26,299
Mission overseas	284,259	455,491
Printing, postage and stationery	325,347	632,578
Telephone	1,870,788	1,367,888
Training	127,000	142,443
Travelling other	68,468	25,210
Staff Welfare	277,227	257,021
General expenses	326,944	344,871
Professional and legal charges	370,200	60,000
Rent of office premises	3,129,485	3,248,226
Repairs and maintenance	1,088,522	1,427,095
Motor vehicle running expenses	115,919	121,217
Miscellaneous	110,192	77,625
Conference/Seminars	72,800	-
Depreciation	22,424,807	17,820,647
	75,557,290	66,727,019
Total	182,883,652	190,446,596
Total	182,883,652	
REAKDOWN OF STAFF COSTS laries	31.327.255	27.020.139

Salaries	31,327,255	27,020,139
Levy	48,197	62,690
NPS	3,014,565	2,899,094
FPS	1,263,095	516,008
NSF	527,184	535,621
PAYE	2,371,350	2,133,625
Allowance	190,400	-
Medical Scheme	599,400	1,128,237
Movement in Passage benefit	1,600,221	1,175,819
Movement in Sick Leave	1,447,258	2,796,369
Retirement Obligations	723,404	576,686
Vacation		81,324
	43,112,331	38,925,611

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NOTE



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