



NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD



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20 21 Annual Report

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Overview

The year 2020 had been marked by an unprecedented pandemic impacting to a large extent economies and societies all around the world. At the same time, it has underscored the importance of digitalization to tackle such disruptions. NCB promptly embarked itself on numerous projects and initiatives to quickly digitally transform and embrace the Digital Economy.

With the anticipated exponential growth of covid-19 patients and the immediate need for protective and medical equipment which the normal supply chain can barely sustain, the NCB has capitalized on its 3D printing services by producing “face shields” intended for children in Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools. 3D technology has undoubtedly become a vital component in assisting both micro and medium organizations to rebuild in the post pandemic era. As such, the NCB has provided training and awareness sessions in the field of floral, jewellery, knitting, packaging and candle wax. This will eventually help them to improve their products while at the same time lowering costs of production.

While the lockdown has impacted businesses to large scale, NCB has started a programme to guide Micro Small Medium Enterprises to avail of new opportunities for online presence and Digital & Social Media Marketing (DSMM) for boosting their business and expand their client base. At the same time, NCB is continuously ensuring that all who need to stay connected, stay safe and secure. The CERT-MU has been working very hard towards protecting Mauritius and its people against cyber threats since the lockdown has been announced. There is a continuous dissemination of security alerts and communique which is being posted on the CERT-MU’s website on how Mauritians can protect themselves and work securely while at home.

Assisting the government and industries to embrace digital technologies has always been the prime mission of the NCB. As such, the local authorities of Mauritius are benefiting from technical assistance to set up a Geographical Information System to allow monitoring and tracking of their physical assets (such as electric poles, drains and buildings). This platform, which has been set up for the district council of Moka, shall be replicated across all other councils to cover the whole island.

At the NCB we are committed to pave the innovation path of our country and the foundation of this path resides in the adoption of technologies such as Robotics, Artificial Intelligence,

Augmented Reality, 3D Printing and the Internet of Things. As such the NCB has initiated a restructuration process. This shall strengthen and empower the organisation to re-orient its services and expertise towards driving Mauritius into its digital transformation and respond better to the expectations of citizens in this new digital era.

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. In addition to this, the BDP department is managing two 3D Printing Centres for the benefit of industries, professionals and academia. In line with its strategic plan for 3D Printing services, NCB will be setting up 3D Printing Centres in academia, the first 3D Printing centre which was situated in Port Louis has been relocated to the Fashion and Design Institute in Ebène and is operational since June 2021. It is planned to set up additional 3D Printing centres at the University of Technology, Mauritius and Polytechnics Mauritius. In addition to academia, an MoU has been signed with SME Mauritius to extended our partnership for 5 additional years with regards to the management of the second 3D Printing Centre which is dedicated for MSMEs who are willing to adopt digital manufacturing.

1.2 Objectives and activities

The BDP Division was set up with the objectives to:

- Support the growth of the ICT industry
- Develop marketing/promotional tools for ICT businesses
- Facilitate local companies in marketing their products and services
- Organise ICT Trade fairs and exhibitions
- 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. The department plans and organises ICT events in collaboration with other stakeholders in the industry with the aim to promote local ICT Businesses and foster digital outreach. Events such as InnovTech, ICT Expo and IDC-CIO networking day have been organised by the department. This year it is planned to organise 5 editions of “Teknolozi dan ou Porté” across the country. The event is spanned for two weeks where NCB will be showcasing its services to the public.

As from 2018, the Business Development and Promotion department, has been actively engaged in the promotion of 3D Printing technology. The department manages two 3D Printing centres and has been working in close collaboration with various institutions to promote this emerging technology. Recently, a strategic plan for 3D Printing services was prepared to propose corrective paths to resolve the pain points and to chart future action lines. The strategic plan encapsulates various action lines such as; Industrial and Digital Manufacturing for MSMEs, setting up of 3D Printing Labs at Universities, Sectoral focus for 3D printing services and Online Learning & Crowdsourcing Repository for 3D Printing.

In addition to conducting projects pertaining to Business Promotion in the ICT Industry, the BDP department is also involved in the conceptualisation of projects and initiatives leading to Business Development of SMEs through the adoption of emerging technology.

The projects implemented in the year 2020/21 are listed below:

1.3.1 3D Printing Centre

The National Computer Board (NCB) operates 3D Printing Centres since 2018 for the benefit of a wide range of industries, professions and academia, including SMEs, start-ups, designers and university students. The objectives are:

- Provide venue and logistics for Primary and Secondary school children and University students for building prototypes;
- Support local entrepreneurship by offering 3D print services;
- Encourage SMEs to adopt new production lines;

- Produce reduced scale models for designers of various industries;
- Accelerate process of creation of moulds and dyes;
- Guide startups to build their own open source, low-cost 3D printing machines;
- Subsidised and cost effective services, otherwise unaffordable to users; and
- Provide Initiation and Training sessions to targeted users (students, start-ups, SMEs).

1.3.2 Awareness / Counselling Session on 3D Printing & 3D Modelling

In view to inculcate students on the concept of 3D Printing Technology, awareness sessions were carried out in four colleges and institutions namely, Sir Abdool Razak Mohammed SSS, St Helena College, Regis Chaperon SSS and Fashion Design and Institute. **143** students benefited from the awareness sessions. The sessions were followed by a survey to identify students of higher classes specially those who pursue Design and Tech subject, to adopt the application of 3D Printing for producing prototypes for final year projects.

Training and awareness sessions were also carried out with Micro SMEs and Women Entrepreneur in the field of floral, jewellery, knitting, packaging and candle wax. **119** Micro SMEs benefited from the awareness sessions. The NCB worked in collaboration with the National Women Council, National Women Entrepreneur Council and the SME Mauritius.

1.3.3 Distribution of Face Shields to children with disabilities

In order to provide support in the fight against Covid-19, the NCB proceeded to the 3D printing of “face shields” intended for children in Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools in Mauritius so that they can adapt to everyday life. The NCB has brought a technological aspect by printing these protective visors through 3D printers. 1,074 face shields have been distributed in SEN schools across Mauritius.

1.3.4 Events & Collaboration

The 3D Printing team participated in the Science Fair at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre from the 2nd to 4th December 2020 with the objective of marketing the 3D Printing Centre and to demonstrate live 3D Printing and Design technologies.

1.3.5 FAREI – Prototyping of 3D Printed Graduated Injector Cylinder Head

A Strategic Plan for 3D Printing Services was prepared with the aim to propose corrective paths and to chart future action lines. One of the Action Lines of the strategy is to focus on key sectors such as Agriculture and Fisheries to identify expensive parts which are viable for being 3D-manufactured in Mauritius.

NCB started this process for the agricultural sector by approaching planters to identify parts which could be 3D manufactured. A first use case identified was the prototyping of a Graduated Injector Cylinder Heads, commonly known as Graduator, which often fail from wear and tear but are not sold individually given that they are part of whole irrigation block. The whole block is quite expensive and greenhouse growers have to invest up to Rs 27,000 to replace the whole system. NCB, over several design and print cycles, produced two prototypes (from ABS and Nylon). The 3D Printed Graduator been tested by FAREI in live field tests and have proven to be reliable and up to commercial standard. The estimated cost for producing a 3D Printed graduator varies between Rs 700 to Rs 800, this will help greenhouse growers to benefit from savings on replacement of parts.

1.3.6 3D Printing Centre at FDI

As from June 2020, the NCB has set up a 3D Printing Centre at the Fashion Design and Institute at Ebene which will be dedicated to students in the context of the Build Operate and Transfer concept. The Centre will provide free of charge 3D objects to students and provide demos, technical support and carry out awareness and training sessions on 3D Design and Printing technologies.

1.3.7 Statistics

A total of **966** 3D objects were printed at the 3D Printing Centres during the financial year 2020-2021. The number of 3D print services for students is 337 and the number of 3D print services for SMEs is 629.

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 main areas of focus of the department are Open Data, Geospatial Data, Open Source, IoT and Robotics. PRD also plays a fundamental role in monitoring ICT sector performance at national level by keeping track of ICT related indicators and developing benchmarking reports. The department 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, Girls in ICT Day, etc.

2.2 Objectives

The main objectives of PRD are to:

- Monitoring ICT Indicators and preparing information society related reports
- To undertake studies and analysis of the use of ICT in the various socio-economic sectors.
- To analyze and monitor the development of IT in Mauritius and develop policy-based information society reports
- To monitor and analyze the trend in latest ICT technologies and disseminate information to relevant stakeholders through events
- Assist the Ministry in the formulation of IT policies and development of ICT related Strategic plans
- Liaise and collaborate with concerned stakeholders on national projects related to the development of the ICT sector
- Inculcating a culture of Open Source at national level
- Partnering with the IST-Africa to assist Mauritian Researchers to submit Research Proposals/Papers for EU Horizon 2020 Research Programme and IST Africa Conferences respectively

- Organise Capacity building and regional Workshop on ICT related actions recommended by the International Telecommunication Union
- Carrying out research on ICT for Youth, Disabilities and Women and develop/implement relevant projects according to ITU and other relevant policy and regulatory international institutions
- Assisting public institutions in their computerisation projects, including preparing and evaluating their technical proposals

2.3 Project & Achievements 2020/2021

2.3.1 Open National Spatial Data Infrastructure

The National Computer Board (NCB) has been mandated to drive the Open National Spatial Data Infrastructure (ONSDI) project which shall act as a common platform for collecting, sharing and dissemination of geospatial datasets and maps with the aim of facilitating access to information, free of charge, with the provision of tools for analysis. In this regard, the following project has been initiated within this financial year.

District Council of Moka GIS Asset Management Projects

Local Authorities of Mauritius would like to port their existing Geographical Information System (GIS) which compiles all their physical assets, or points of interest, to allow their monitoring and tracking as well as visually representing them on a map. The GIS will also need to interface with the Council Project Management (CPM) in the future to reflect status changes of assets.

A pilot project is currently being implemented for the DC Moka which will be replicated once successfully completed for all the other LAs.

The following stages have already been completed:

- The staging GIS platform (GIS and Database Servers) has already been set up and some existing data received from the DC Moka has already been uploaded for testing purposes. The first stage of the project is in progress where Drone High Resolution images will be used to carry out for assets tagging directly on the GIS platform.

- A District Council Asset Tagging Mobile App has been developed to capture the location of assets such as poles, building and drains manually on field basis.
- A Web GIS Application has been developed on a trial basis using open source technologies which consist of a GIS dashboard with several GIS layers. The web application will be the core of the project where all status of assets will be displayed and will be used by the Citizen Support Unit, the Local Authorities and other concerned departments.

2.3.2 The NCB Internet of Things Network (NIOT)

The National Computer Board recognizes the vision of the Internet of Things (IoT) which describes a future where many everyday objects are interconnected through a network. They collect and share data of themselves and their surroundings to allow widespread monitoring, analyzation, optimization, and control. Ever decreasing prices, dimensions, and energy requirements of electronics now allow tiny devices to unobtrusively measure their surroundings. Many devices use low-energy communication technology to send those measurements to other, more powerful components, such as LoRaWAN gateways, mobile phones, or WiFi hotspots. Devices are increasingly incorporating long-range wireless technologies such as LoRaWAN or existing 4G and 5G networks. Local edge processors, hubs, or internet services in turn analyze and process IoT sensor data to create new knowledge, which can be used to act back on the environment through actuators. In this context, the following project has been initiated.

Setting up of an IOT portal on a pilot basis based on LORAWAN

The objective of this test portal is to carry out some pilot IOT projects. Two IOT projects which have been identified and currently in progress are the smart farming (pilot project at FAREI) and the smart transportation projects. Both projects will be using the LORA communication protocol.

2.3.3 Open Data Initiatives

The main objective of the Open Data initiative is to create economic value out of the releases of Government datasets as Open Data. In this context, an open data portal. In addition, to add value to the open data initiative, data of geo spatial nature (consisting of layers and maps) have been created and uploaded on the geo portal (geoportal.govmu.org).

To include contribution of datasets from the private sector and encourage take up among Start-ups for utilizing these open data sets for development of innovative applications, an Open Data Steering Committee have been set up and is chaired by NCB. Its members are from the private sector and start-ups. The projects under this initiative for this financial year includes:

2.3.3.1 Development of 2 mobile apps in line with the promotion of the Open data project:

- The KOTSA app while using data from the open data portal allow uses to locate surrounding places based on their real-time location.
- The MOBISTOP app has been developed with the objective of collection of all the bus stops around the island GPS locations using crowdsourcing method. As these data are currently not available, the NCB took the initiative to develop this app. Both apps are currently under testing phase and will be released soon.

2.3.3.2 Open Data portal & Geoportal

Open Data Portal: 75 Additional datasets (including maps and layers) have been wrangled and uploaded to the portal. Datasets for the tourism and educational sector have been reviewed, re-wrangled and updated.

Geoportals: Geospatial data and maps have been created and added to the geo portal. Example of such datasets are Gas Stations, Shopping Malls, Hypermarkets and Supermarkets, Ministries, Public Beaches and Dangerous Bathing. Bus routes have also been designed and uploaded on the geo portal.

As at June 2020, there were some 300 datasets on the open data portal and 40 maps on the geoportal.

2.3.3.3 Open Data Steering Committee (ODSC)

This committee has been set up with the objective of involving private sectors in participating in the open data initiatives. Among the many responsibilities of the ODSC is to motivate the developers' community to use the datasets from the portals and come with apps that would improve the life of Mauritian citizens.

2.3.4 Digital & Social Media Marketing Training for Women-led Small Enterprises

The NCB started a Programme to guide Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to avail of new opportunities for online presence and Digital & Social Media Marketing (DSMM) for boosting their business and expand their client base.

2nd Phase - The second phase was conducted in collaboration of the National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC). A total of 200 NWECC members are being targeted to complete the trainings.

Year 2020 – Batch 1 - The programme was launched with a first group of 12 women entrepreneurs as a pilot project in October 2020.

WSIS Award

This project has been awarded as champion for the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2021 in the Category ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life - E-business. Out of a total 1,270 submissions in 18 categories worldwide, the NCB project was ranked as champion among the top 5 in its category.

2.3.5 IFAP Mauritius

The NCB has set up the IFAP (Information for All Programme) committee for Mauritius. IFAP is an international framework under the guidance of UNESCO which provides a platform for policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action in the area of information access, literacy, preservation, and ethics. Various initiatives have been planned under this committee, like examining and validating national projects that would be sent to the National Commission for UNESCO.

2.3.6 ICT Sector performance monitoring

On-going collection and compilation of statistics from data providers, reformat & consolidate and update all ICT-related statistics of Mauritius on portal <http://indicators.ncb.mu/>.

3. GOVERNMENT ONLINE CENTRE

3.1 Background

The Government Online Centre, a department under the National Computer Board, is considered as one of the most critical sites that forms part of the Government Infrastructure. Operational since May 2005, it is the centralised data centre to provide Government services to citizens, businesses, government officers and non-citizens abroad. 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.

Member of the Data Centre Alliance of the UK and a holder of a NIP (Network Infrastructure Provider) license from the ICTA, the GOC is the 2nd Largest Email Provider in Mauritius and the only data centre with a park of over 100 servers and network infrastructure ranging from different complexity.

The GOC has constantly been reinforcing its infrastructure to meet international data centre standards and is looking for all appropriate certifications to be a reference in Government Data Centres. Moreover, the GOC, through its skilled staff, year after year, innovates through implementation of eGovernment projects hosted centrally, examples of which includes, the Government Portal, the Government Email Infrastructure, the government Cloud infrastructure (also known as the g-Cloud),

It is to be noted that through the implementation of these projects, Mauritius has climbed its ranking in the United Nations e-Gov Survey in 2014 from 93th to 63rd position in 2020. The GOC today hosts other critical infrastructure such as the Mauritius National Identity Card Scheme, safe-city project of the Mauritius Police Force, the Local Government Project amongst others, increasing the workload ten-fold.

3.2 Objectives

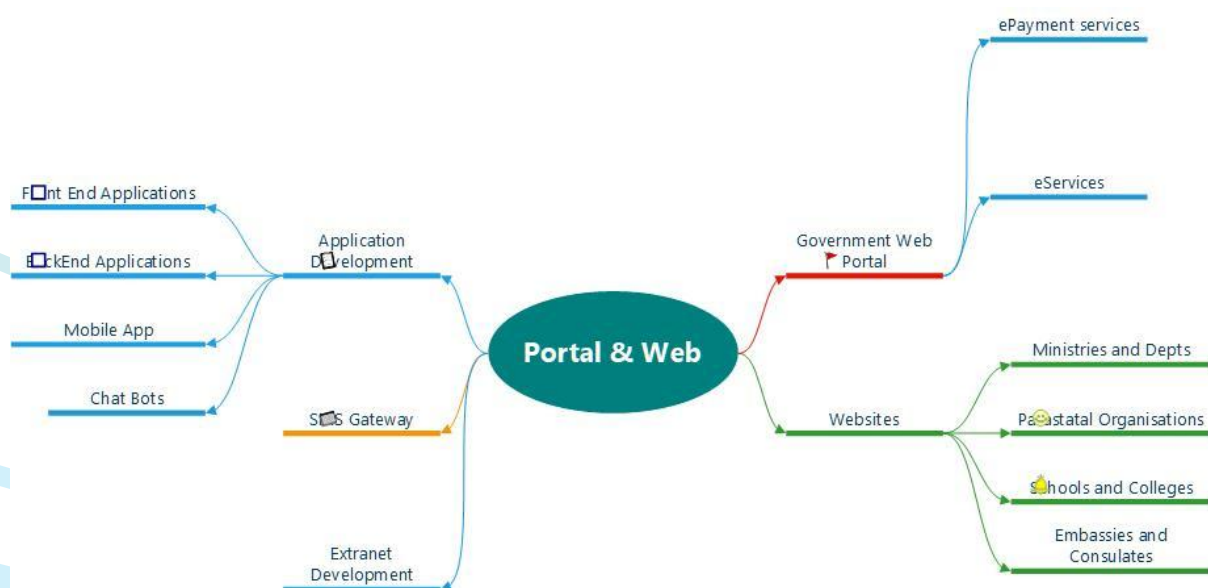
- Host the Government Web Portal, which is the “front office” vehicle through which integrated and value-added services are delivered to citizens, non-citizens, businesses and Government departments and agencies
- Provide centralized Internet access and email facilities to employees of Ministries and Departments

- Manage 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:
 - Government and citizens
 - Government and businesses and
 - 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

3.3.1 GOC Portal & Web

One of the key trends we have seen for the past 10 years, has been the continued reliance on the services of the Government Online Centre. In fact, this growing reliance has sprung about new poles of activities.

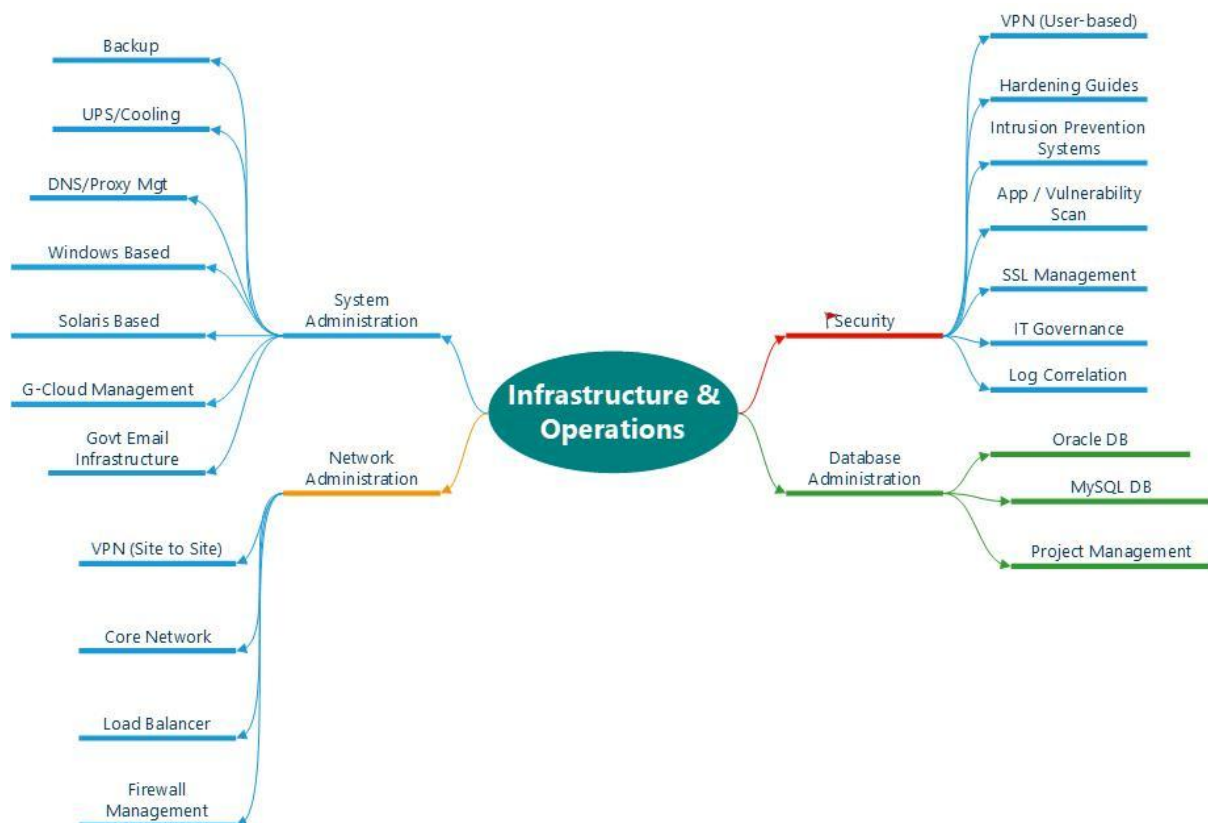


GOC is one of the key enablers in digital transformation of government services and the Portal & Web team is called upon to rethink and adapt to the every changing environment of the digital world. The traditional services of web design and updates will be faded in the near future with more focus on AI-driven development, Mobile apps and augmented reality where possible

3.3.2 Infrastructure and Operations

The primary objective of the GOC data centre is to provide physical hosting space for clients. Virtual server hosting environment is also provided on the G-Cloud environment. The latter is a private cloud platform managed by the I&O team.

The GOC Infrastructure and Operations team, provides quite a few services to the different Ministries and Departments, such as the Government Email Service and hosting of the Government Portal. Moreover, the GOC also provides filtered Internet connectivity to all the Ministries and Departments connected to the GINS network.



The primary operation of the team is to ensure that the infrastructure (facility and IT systems) operates without any hassle on a day-to-day basis. As such, monitoring is of primary importance and whenever a glitch is encountered, the team provides prompt resolution to

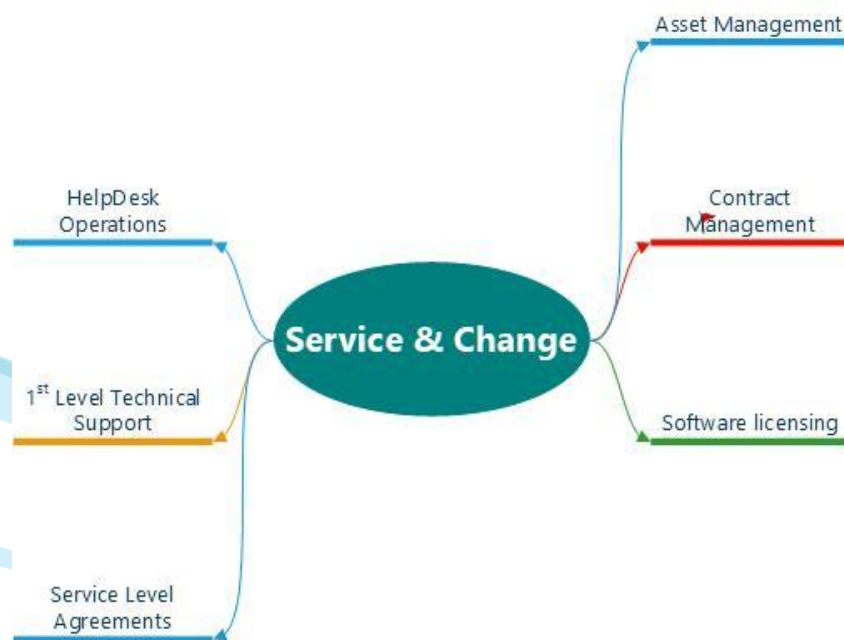
ensure continuous operation. Furthermore, the team has to stay abreast with regards to the evolving technologies such that implementation projects are carried out to upgrade and replace obsolete technologies and equipment. This is done, as far as possible, seamlessly through minute planning and execution, such that there is minimum impact on running services.

Security

At the GOC, we promote the “security by design” concept. Hence, we accompany and provide consultancy services to our clients as from project inception. This ensures that the implemented system is resilient and secure. The security team also conducts security vulnerability scans to ensure that hosted applications and services are free of known vulnerabilities.

3.3.3 IT Service & Change

The GOC provides comprehensive information on government services via fully secured online applications, delivered through the Government Web Portal on a 24x7 basis. These services are supported by a modern IT infrastructure to enable IT optimisation in the public sector. The GOC is looking to further improve its delivery of IT services through implementation of a new Service Management capability.



The IT Service and Change Management operates the Service Desk (Help Desk) which is a single point of contact where service requests, incidents, problems are reported. Application and technical issues that cannot be resolved by the Service Desk are escalated to 2nd level support or as a last resort to third parties. Furthermore, all tasks pertaining to SLAs, Contract Management, IT Assets Management and software licensing are handled by the IT Service and Change Department. A service Catalogue, which outlines the current technical services provided by the GOC has already been developed.

3.4 Projects and Achievements

3.4.1 Implementation of New Server Load Balancers at the Government Online Centre

The implementation of a new cluster of server load balancers in the datacentre infrastructure of the GOC was required in order to replace ageing and out of support hardware.

Load balancers constitute an important aspect of any IT infrastructure as they provide a means to share load across different servers. This, in turn, enables IT infrastructure to be highly available and ensures adequate service availability to the ever-increasing demand for IT services.

Furthermore, the new cluster of load balancers is more robust and more efficient such that only 2 hardware appliances have now replaced the aged 4 appliances. This new setup improves, not only the delivery of IT services, but also makes up for a cost-effective solution enabling more efficient usage of datacentre power and cooling.

3.4.2 Email/Endpoint/SharePoint Security

The GOC has revamped its security tools and solutions for better protecting email services, servers, laptops and workstations as well as the SharePoint infrastructure. This refresh, by means of three different and distinct projects, was important in order to ensure that the GOC has the latest and most cost-effective solutions to protect the datacentre IT services.

The GOC manages the Government Email Infrastructure and as such it is critical that email traffic be protected from potential attack vectors circulation through email – for example, phishing emails, malware, spam, among many others. Consequently, this also protects the underlying infrastructure including the people from potential attacks. However, in order to further reinforce security, endpoints also need to be protected,

hence the need for endpoint security protecting servers, laptops and workstations. These devices are interconnected and by protecting them correctly, we can ensure proper service delivery.

It is worthwhile to note that the GOC is currently implementing yet another major security project by revamping the existing firewall architecture. Next Generation Firewalls is being installed and configured with latest technologies so as to enhance the security of the network architecture. This project has recently been awarded and is on-going.

3.4.3 Revamping of the Government Portal

The Government Web Portal of the Republic of Mauritius (www.govmu.org) has been redesigned according to latest technology and trends in Web Standards along with all websites of Ministries and Departments.

Websites from Parastatal organisations have equally been revamped over the financial year and the projected plan is to now redesign websites for all schools and colleges.

4. ICT Culture Promotion (ICTCP)

4.1 Background

The ICT Culture Promotion (ICTCP) Department of the National Computer Board has been implementing a number of ICT training projects and initiatives over the years for the benefit of the citizens and community at large.

This department has a good digital outreach to the community with its Cyber Caravans (Mobile Labs) and the network of State Secondary Schools under the UIEP Programme.

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 democratize 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 different projects implemented by the ICTCP Unit during the period 2019-2020 are as follows:

4.3.1 Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP)

The National Computer Board (NCB) has been implementing the ‘Digital Youth Engagement Programme (DYEP)’ which comprises the provision of introductory courses on Coding to youngsters – Primary pupils (Grades 4 & 5).

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 acts as a training service provider to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology 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 four 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 also to 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 seamless for the learner accessing online course materials from whatever device he/she is using and at the same time, this will be an opportunity to showcase the latest IT technologies available to the student and community.

For the period 2020-2021, 850 students have been initiated on Coding for primary students. As at date, a total of 5,896 primary pupils (Grades 4 & 5) were trained on the DYEP primary training.

4.3.2 Citizen Engagement Programme (CEP)

The Citizen Engagement Programme (CEP) was launched in April 2018 with the aim of providing ICT awareness training to Senior Citizens and other target groups.

The two Cyber Caravans of the National Computer Board (NCB), equipped with some 40 laptops proceed to recreational centres to deliver IT training to Senior Citizens on Social Media tools like Facebook, YouTube and online communication tools i.e. Skype, WhatsApp and others. Moreover, the use of social media will allow them to better connect with their

peers and children among others. The training is offered in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity. In addition, the Cyber Caravans also deliver the CEP training to various centres (Elderly Day Care Centres/ Social Welfare Centres/Community Centres) across the island. Since the FY 2020/2021, NCB under the CEP Programme is also offering ICT Literacy and Digital Marketing course to Women Entrepreneurs and MITD students.

The aim of the training is to empower the beneficiaries 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.

For the period 2020-2021, 757 participants were trained under the CEP. As at date, a total of 2,943 Senior Citizens have benefitted from the CEP training.

4.3.3 Universal ICT Education Programme (UIEP)

The National Computer Board (NCB) has been 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 2020-21, some 14,135 participants have been trained on the IC3 programme (inclusive of 13,977 under the Grade 9 Integration).

4.3.4 Digital Proficiency Course under the National Training & Reskilling Scheme

The National Training & Reskilling Scheme (NTRS) is a Government project being implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training and the Human Resource Development Council in collaboration with the NCB. The NTRS focuses on the training and reskilling of some 9,000 unemployed persons in various sectors. Under this scheme, the National Computer Board (NCB) has been entrusted with the delivery of the 300-Hr Digital Proficiency Course (DPC).

The DPC training has started in February 2021 with 7 batches and is conducted in the Computer Labs of State Secondary Schools across the island. Presently, 140 unemployed have enrolled for the DPC Programme.

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 Information Technology, Communication and Innovation in formulating cyber-security policies and strategies. CERT-MU also cooperates with the regional and international CERTs and other specialised cybersecurity agencies in order to mitigate cyber threats.

5.2 Objectives

The main objectives of CERT-MU are to:

- Handle cyber security incidents and monitor cyber 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 Projects and Achievements

1. Finalization of National Cyber Incident response Plan in September 2020
2. Recertification of ISO 27001 for CERT-MU in September 2020
3. Setting up ITU Centre of Excellence in the field of Cybersecurity in September 2020
4. Organization of FIRST Technical Symposium in October 2020
5. Technical security review of State Bank of India IT Infrastructure in December 2020
6. Organization of Safer Internet Day in February 2021
7. Contributed in the United Nations GGE and OWEG consultation meetings on the Norms, CBMs and International Law on Cyberspace as part of the Mauritian delegation in May 2021
8. Operationalization of Security Operations Centre in June 2021
9. Resolved 146 cyber security incidents

6. Technopreneurship Unit

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.

6.2 Objectives

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
BizSpark is a global Program designed to accelerate success of early stage Software start-ups, 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 throughout 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 is organised in 3 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 teams in making their submissions easy.

6.3 Projects and Achievements

6.3.1 Digital Literacy and Online Marketing course

A new Digital Literacy and Online Marketing course was introduced in the year 2020- 2021 at basic and intermediate level to cater for the needs of Women Entrepreneurs who are already operating or planning to start a business.

In addition, this Digital Literacy and Online marketing course was also offered to MITD NC2 and NC3 students who are following courses to become hairdresser/ beautician and Air Con. Repairer among others.

Some 757 people were trained for the FY 2020/2021, prior to the covid19 lockdown for the above two training. The training was organised in collaboration with Senior Citizen Council, National Women Entrepreneur Council and MITD.

6.3.2 Strategic Plan for the Technopreneurship Unit

As per the request of the Board, a Strategic Plan for the Technopreneurship Unit has been worked after a thorough research carried out about the Digital Entrepreneurship ecosystem around the world namely for India, Egypt, Malaysia among others.

The ICT start-ups in Mauritius was benchmarked in comparison to ICT Start-ups around the world namely China, Estonia, Israel and some African countries like South Africa, Tunisia, Kenya and Egypt which allowed to highlight ten constraints and challenges faced by start-ups in Mauritius.

To address these constraints and challenges five main objectives of the Strategic Plan have been identified namely:

- Foster a Digital Entrepreneurship Culture
- Trigger the skills revolution
- Expand Market opportunities
- Finance Digital Start-ups
- Create a Nurturing environment for Digital Start-ups

Some 27-action lines have been identified for implementation during the financial year October 2020 to September 2025. As per the request of the Board some six action lines/projects have been identified and proposed to the technical committee for implementation based on the organization strength including human resource and finance for the period October 2021 to September 2022 and some four action lines for the period October 2022 to September 2023. However, for 3 action lines addition funding and HR will be required for implementation during October 2022 to September 2023.

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 Information Technology, Communication and Innovation

The NCB redefined its strategies to respond more effectively to new national aspirations in view of multi-faceted 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 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 2020 to June 2021

Name	Designation	Representative/Nominee
Mr D. A. Soburrn	Chairman	Representative of Ministry of Information, Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mr N Jugmohunsing (Left Dec 2020)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Information, Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mrs O Motah (From Jan to Feb 2021)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Information, Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mr R Hawabhay (From Feb 2021)	Member	Representative of Ministry of Information, Technology, Communication and Innovation
Mrs A Dabeesingh	Member	Representative Prime Minister's Office (Home Affairs Division)
Mr A Dreepaul (Left May 2021)	Member	Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Mr H Arlandoo (From Jun 2021)	Member	Representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Mrs M Mathur-Dabidin	Member	Representative of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
Mr V Seedoyal	Member	Representative of Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
Mr Avinash Meetoo (Left Jan 2021)	Member	Nominee
Mr D K Jeetah (From Jun 2021)	Member	Nominee
Mr A Dowlutteea (From Jun 2021)	Member	Nominee
Mr S S Beedassy (From Jun 2021)	Member	Nominee

Name	Designation	Representative/Nominee
Mr N Moniaruch (From Jun 2021)	Member	Nominee
Mr V S Bhaugerutty (From Jun 2021)	Member	Nominee

3. STATEMENT OF ATTENDANCE AT BOARD

During the year July 20 to June 21, Fifteen (15) Board meetings were held. The attendance of Board Members at the meetings was as follows:

Name of Board Members	No. of Board Meeting attended	Remuneration (Rs)
Mr Dhurma Ashdeo Soburrun	12	359,100
Mr Navindsing Jugmohunsing	6	5,340
Mrs Oomeswaree Bolah Motah	2	1,780
Mr Rajnish Hawabhay	4	3,560
Mrs Asha Parmessur Dabeesingh	3	2,670
Mr Vasheel Seedoyal	12	10,680
Mr Avinash Meetoo	9	8,010
Mr Avinash Dreepaul	13	11,570
Mr Herve Philippe Arlandoo	1	890
Mrs Devrani Manorama Mathur-Dabidin	10	8,900
Mr Jeetah Deepak Kumar	1	890
Mr Dowlutteea Abhisheik	1	890
Mr Beedassy Satyen Singh	1	890
Mr Moniaruch Nawab	1	890
Mr Bhaugerutty Vinod Sharma	1	890

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 Information 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

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 2020/21, the three committees of the Board were not re-constituted and every matter was taken directly to the Board.

6. MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Mrs J. Esmiot - Executive Director
- Mr. V. Mulloo – Manager, Government Online Centre
- Mr. A. Seegolam –Manager, Government Online Centre
- Mr W. Dilmahomod - Manager, Government Online Centre
- Mr. I. Limalia –Manager, Planning Research and Development
- Mrs. L. Chooromoney – Manager, ICT Technopreneur
- Mr. V. Patansingh – Finance and Administration Manager
- Mr. K. Usmani – Assistant Manager, CERT MU

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 2021.

The Directors of the Board of NCB confirm that in the preparation of the financial statements for the financial year end 30 June 2020/21:

- 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 2019 to 30 June 2020, NCB offered opportunities to staffs to take part in the following courses/workshop.

9.1 Local and Overseas Training

Staff	Job Title	Training	Organisation
Bheemul Bhowaneeden	System Administrator	ITU Academy on Cybersecurity Risk Management	PRD
Christopher		Debunking the 5G Myth_Seminar	MITCI
Bhusan Somaroo			
Reza Soodin			
Iqbal Agowun			
Keshav Goordyal			
Mr S. Reechaye	Information Security Consultant	Battling Cyber -Enabled Crimes and Dark Web Investigations Phase 3 Series	
Mr W. Dilmahomod	Manager	Corruption Risk Assessment	
Mr V. Patansingh		Corruption Risk Assessment	
Mr D. Vithilinga	Business Analyst	Corruption Risk Assessment	
Mrs V. P.Mulliah	Administrative Secretary	Corruption Risk Assessment	
Vandana Dhawtall	WPO/Telephonist	First Aid Course	Civil Service

Sooraj Sungur	IT Support Specialist		College
Krishna Rohee	IT Support Officer		
Dhurmesh Beeharry	Graphic Designer		
Jenita Rao Appanah	Information Security Consultant	Cyber International Law and Policy online Seminar	U.S. Embassy.
Sachindra Reechaye	Information Security Consultant	8-hour Online Course on Global Cybercrime Trends - 7& 9 Dec 20	
Selvana Gopalla		Training on International Program on Cyber Security Studies (iPCSS)	Marshall European Center for Security
Riad Mohamudally	Business Analyst	Information and Communication Technologies and Geo Informatics Applications in Rural Development	African-Asia Rural Development Organisation
Bhusan Somaroo	Business Analyst	Program Production for Digital Broadcasting	
Ashwin Seegolam	Manager	Seminar on ICT Planning, Construction and Development Capability for Developing Countries	Government of the People's Republic of China
Priya Sooreea	Procurement Officer	Training on Capacity building on Return of Procurement Activities	AMPS

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 from 2020 to 2021:

July 2020 – December 2020

- Mrs Joanne Esmyot, Chairperson
- Mr Vithilinga Dirooven, Vice- Chairperson
- Mrs Leena Chooromoney, Member
- Mrs Viswanindee Padaruth, Member
- Mr Ashwin Seegoolam, Member
- Mrs Chandraotee Babooram, Member
- Mr Jay Ramaswamy, Secretary

January 2021 – June 2021

- Mrs Vemah P-Mulliah, Chairperson
- Mr Bhusan Somaroo, Vice- Chairperson
- Mrs Leena Chooromoney, Member
- Mr Jay Ramaswamy, Member
- Mr Amrish Ramchurter, Member
- Mrs Rekha Busgeeth, Member
- Mr Manogaren Marday, Member
- Mr Krishnand Daby, Member
- Mrs Lomatee Mahadawo, Secretary

During the period of July 2020 to June 2021, six meetings of the Safety and Health Committee were held. 4 staff at the NCB had attended the First Aid Course in October 2020 at the Civil Service College. In addition, refresher training was provided to Fire wardens at the NCB on September 2020.

11.GENDER STATEMENT

“We believe in diversity and acknowledge that equality is part of valuing our employees”

The National Computer Board seeks to attract, develop and retain the right people with the right skills without any gender discrimination.

We are committed to a gender-inclusive and equitable working environment and to developing and implementing solutions to remove any practices that obstruct our aim.

We aspire to have the type of culture that encourages and enables all employees to thrive, regardless of gender.

Deliberate and intentional action is needed to embed inclusive leadership behaviours, systems and practices that accept and harness the potential of everyone. We shall therefore:

- Ensure that all genders are equally included, valued, empowered and rewarded
- Ensure that the business case for gender is understood and embraced at all levels of the NCB
- Forster an environment of authenticity and openness which allows all employees to fully participate and have every opportunity to succeed
- Provide gender neutral outcomes where all employees benefit
- Challenge and address structural and cultural impediments to enhance gender equality through career progression.

The diagram below shows the Gender Grid for the NCB:

Gender Grid			
	Women	Men	Total
Management level	3	8	11
Technical level	16	37	53
Administrative level	16	1	17
Workmen's Group	1	11	12



REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

**On the Financial Statements
of the ex-National Computer Board
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE MAURITIUS DIGITAL PROMOTION AGENCY

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

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the ex-National Computer Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual 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 ex-National Computer Board as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

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 ex-National Computer Board in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial 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.

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Note 2 (c) of the financial statements, which describes the effect of the abrogation of the National Computer Board Act on 16 June 2023. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the ex-National Computer Board, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's 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 information 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 regard.

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 IPSASs, 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 responsible for assessing the ex-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 overseeing the ex-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 financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes 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 judgement 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, intentional 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 ex-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 ex-National Computer Board's ability 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 ex-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 statements 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 outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management's Responsibilities for Compliance

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the ex-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 of the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency 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;
- (b) the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;
- (c) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial 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 ex-National Computer Board has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively; and
- (e) the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process 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 sufficient 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:

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

Based on my examination of the records of ex-National Computer Board, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that:

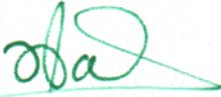
- (i) expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence; and
- (ii) the ex-National Computer Board has not applied its resources and carried out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively.

Other Matter

The financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 were received at my Office on 29 October 2021. Following completion of audit in May 2022, several amendments were made to the financial statements. The amended financial statements were submitted on 14 March 2024.

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

16 April 2024

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**


NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

		30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
		Rs.	Rs.
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	35,809,418	16,724,288
Receivables from Non Exchange Transaction	9	-	2,414,930
Receivables from Exchange Transaction	10	13,570,781	21,205,002
Asset in Progress		7,156,600	7,862,623
Short Term Car Loan	11	1,532,742	1,513,941
Inventories	12	76,021	214,615
		<u>58,145,562</u>	<u>49,935,399</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property , Plant and Equipment	13	57,093,229	48,562,633
Intangible Assets	14	21,190,252	22,038,466
Long term Car Loan	11	4,538,662	5,184,976
		<u>82,822,144</u>	<u>75,786,076</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>140,967,706</u>	<u>125,721,474</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	16	17,005,425	10,157,083
Short Term Car Loan	16	1,532,742	1,513,941
		<u>18,538,167</u>	<u>11,671,024</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Provisions			
Employee Benefits	17	19,503,654	17,441,242
Long Term Car Loan	16	4,538,662	5,184,976
Retirement Benefits Obligation	15	28,688,175	19,840,127
		<u>52,730,491</u>	<u>42,466,345</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>71,268,658</u>	<u>54,137,370</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>69,699,047</u>	<u>71,584,104</u>
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
General Fund		69,699,047	71,584,104
		<u>69,699,047</u>	<u>71,584,104</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the MDPA Board on 19th February 2024


Mr D. A. SOBARRUN
CHAIRPERSON


Mrs N. B. ALLYHOSEN
BOARD MEMBER

The notes on pages 54 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	30-Jun-21 Rs.	30-Jun-20 Rs.
Revenue			
Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions	18	172,330,432	175,523,047
Revenue from Exchange Transactions	19	1,720,994	6,101,180
Total Revenue		174,051,427	181,624,227
Expenses			
Direct Expenses related to Projects	25	72,792,821	96,500,861
Administrative expenses	26	55,339,738	56,264,898
Depreciation and amortisation	13 & 14	26,889,687	24,437,861
Total Operating Expenses		155,022,246	177,203,620
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		19,029,181	4,420,607

The notes on pages 54 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSET/ EQUITY FOR THE YEAR 30 JUNE 2021

	GENERAL FUND	TOTAL
	Rs.	Rs.
As at 30 June 2020	71,584,104	71,584,104
Remeasurement of IPSAS 39 recognised in Equity	(6,107,689)	(6,107,689)
Adjustment 2021	(14,806,548)	(14,806,548)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	19,029,181	19,029,181
Balance as at 30 June 2021	69,699,047	69,699,047
As at 30 June 2019	80,533,457	80,533,457
Remeasurement of IPSAS 39 recognised in Equity	(13,661,006)	(13,661,006)
Opening Adjustment 2020	291,044	291,044
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	4,420,607	4,420,607
Balance as at 30 June 2020	71,584,104	71,584,104

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

		30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
		Rs.	Rs.
Cash flow from operating activities	Notes		
Net surplus/(Deficit)for the year		19,029,181	4,420,607
Adjustments for:-			
Depreciation and amortisation		26,889,687	24,437,861
ML 1 adjustments as per statement of equity		(14,806,548)	291,044
Retirement benefit obligations		6,107,689	(13,661,006)
Interest receivable		4,504	33,551
Operating surplus before working capital changes		37,224,513	15,522,057
Decrease / (increase) in trade and other receivables		8,967,758	1,830,402
Decrease /(increase) in inventories		138,594	133,467
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other payables		8,245,638	7,755,142
Cash generated from/(absorbed into) operations		17,351,989	9,719,011
Net cash flows from operating activities		53,661,704	25,241,068
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(34,572,069)	(25,184,813)
Interest received		(4,504)	(33,551)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		19,085,132	22,706
Movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		16,724,287	16,701,581
Cash and cash equivalents at the close of the year	8	35,809,418	16,724,287
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		19,085,132	22,706

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

STATEMENT OF OUTTURN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	NCB		Government Online Centre		TOTAL	
	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Staff Costs	35,600,000	43,349,360	21,000,000	19,837,697	56,600,000	63,187,057
Advertising	-	202,588			-	202,588
Bank charges	-	40,151			-	40,151
Board members fees	-	441,619			-	441,619
Utilities	1,000,000	1,511,131	11,500,000	7,259,522	12,500,000	8,770,653
Insurance	-	26,641			-	26,641
Printing, postage and stationery	200,000	729,090			200,000	729,090
Telephone	750,000	1,343,660			750,000	1,343,660
Training	-	7,561			-	7,561
Travelling other	-	15,218			-	15,218
Staff Welfare	-	62,017			-	62,017
General expenses	-	517,664			-	517,664
Professional and legal charges	300,000	286,370			300,000	286,370
Rent of office premises	4,500,000	5,860,055	10,000,000	8,832,882	14,500,000	14,692,937
Repairs and maintenance	300,000	1,246,899	25,000,000	38,975,879	25,300,000	40,222,778
Motor vehicle running expenses	150,000	170,341			150,000	170,341
Miscellaneous	-	147,946	500,000	596,321	500,000	744,267
Conference/Seminars	-	322,297			-	322,297
Car Loan	-	-		980,000	-	980,000
<i>Projects:</i>	-	-			-	-
3D Printing Service Centres	7,900,000	780,171			7,900,000	780,171
Coding in Schools	1,000,000	929,237			1,000,000	929,237
Citizen Engagement Program	600,000	256,138			600,000	256,138
Cybersecurity Drill Exercise	100,000	-			100,000	-
CERT MU	4,500,000	764,994			4,500,000	764,994
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000	316,250	30,000,000	26,166,024	31,000,000	26,482,274
Depreciation					-	
Total NCB expenditure	57,900,000	59,327,399	98,000,000	102,648,325	155,900,000	161,975,724

Outturn for the financial year 2021 has been presented on a cash basis. Reasons for variances between budget and outturn are explained on page 52

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD
STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET & ACTUAL AMOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Original Budget Rs.	Revised Budget Rs.	Actual Received / Paid Rs.	Financial Statements Rs.
Revenue				
Recurrent Grant	56,900,000	56,900,000	59,200,000	61,435,720
Capital Grant	1,000,000	1,000,000	851,000	851,000
Government Online Centre	68,000,000	68,000,000	81,698,513	81,698,513
GOC Capital	30,000,000	30,000,000	28,345,200	28,345,200
Universal ICT Education Programme			65,400	
Interest			4,504	
Other income			1,784,265	1,684,630
Car Loan			980,000	
	155,900,000	155,900,000	172,928,881	174,015,062
Expenditure				
Staff Costs	35,600,000	35,600,000	43,349,360	46,685,029
Advertising			202,588	210,163
Bank charges			40,151	29,467
Board members fees			441,619	408,134
Utilities	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,511,131	1,510,396
Insurance			26,641	26,641
Mission overseas			-	
Printing, postage and stationery	200,000	200,000	729,090	146,252
Telephone	750,000	750,000	1,343,660	1,236,995
Training			7,561	15,961
Travelling other			15,218	9,528
Staff Welfare			62,017	64,613
General expenses			517,664	337,387
Professional and legal charges	300,000	300,000	286,370	661,370
Rent of office premises	4,500,000	4,500,000	5,860,055	5,997,647
Repairs and maintenance	300,000	300,000	1,246,899	1,595,993
Motor vehicle running expenses	150,000	150,000	170,341	101,679
Miscellaneous			147,946	147,946
Conference/Seminars	-		322,297	322,297
Car Loan			-	
3D Printing Service Centres	7,900,000	7,900,000	780,171	779,269
Coding in Schools	1,000,000	1,000,000	929,237	1,002,926
Citizen Engagement Program	600,000	600,000	256,138	125,898
Cybersecurity Drill Exercise	100,000	100,000		
CERT MU	4,500,000	4,500,000	764,994	863,550
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000	1,000,000	316,250	
Depreciation				26,889,687
Total NCB expenditure	57,900,000	57,900,000	59,327,399	89,168,830
Operational Cost	68,000,000	68,000,000	76,482,301	65,853,416
Capital	30,000,000	30,000,000	26,166,024	
Total GOC expenditure	98,000,000	98,000,000	102,648,325	65,853,416
Total Expenditure	155,900,000	155,900,000	161,975,724	155,022,246

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

**STATEMENT SHOWING REASONS FOR VARIANCES BETWEEN BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Revenue	Budget	Actual	Variances between Budget	Comments
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Recurrent Grant	56,900,000	59,200,000	(2,300,000)	
Recurrent Grant	1,000,000	851,000	149,000	
Capital Grant	68,000,000	81,698,513	(13,698,513)	
Government Online Centre	30,000,000	28,345,200	1,654,800	
Universal ICT Education Programme		65,400	(65,400)	
Interest		4,504	(4,504)	
Other income		1,784,265	(1,784,265)	
	155,900,000	171,948,881		
Expenditure	Budget	Actual	Variances between Budget	Comments
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Staff Costs	35,600,000	43,349,360	(7,749,360)	Expenditure incurred for CSG. Budget was under provided.
Advertising	-	202,588	(202,588)	Budget was not provided
Bank charges	-	40,151	(40,151)	Budget was not provided
Board members fees	-	441,619	(441,619)	Budget was not provided
Utilities	1,000,000	1,511,131	(511,131)	Budget was under provided.
Insurance	-	26,641	(26,641)	Budget was not provided
Printing, postage and stationery	200,000	729,090	(529,090)	
Telephone	750,000	1,343,660	(593,660)	
Training	-	7,561	(7,561)	Budget was not provided
Travelling other	-	15,218	(15,218)	Budget was not provided
Staff Welfare	-	62,017	(62,017)	Budget was not provided
General expenses	-	517,664	(517,664)	Budget was not provided
Professional and legal charges	300,000	286,370	13,630	
Rent of office premises	4,500,000	5,860,055	(1,360,055)	Budget was under provided.
Repairs and maintenance	300,000	1,246,899	(946,899)	Budget was under provided.
Motor vehicle running expenses	150,000	170,341	(20,341)	
Miscellaneous	-	147,946	(147,946)	Budget was not provided
Conference/Seminars	-	322,297	(322,297)	Budget was not provided
<i>Projects:</i>				
3D Printing Service Centres	7,900,000	780,171	7,119,829	
Coding in Schools	1,000,000	929,237	70,763	
Citizen Engagement Program	600,000	256,138	343,862	
Cybersecurity Drill Exercise	100,000	-	100,000	
CERT MU	4,500,000	764,994	3,735,006	
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000	316,250	683,750	
Depreciation				
Total NCB expenditure	57,900,000	59,327,399		
Government Online Centre				
Operational Cost	68,000,000	76,482,301		
Capital	30,000,000	26,166,024		
Total GOC expenditure	98,000,000	102,648,325		
Total Expenditure	155,900,000	161,975,724		

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

STATEMENT SHOWING RECONCILIATION OF ACTUAL CASH FLOWS WITH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	30 June 2021
	Rs
Actual revenue	172,928,881
Other Income	(99,635)
Car Loan	<u>(980,000)</u>
Recurrent Revenue as per Statement of financial performance	<u>171,849,246</u>
	30 June 2020
	Rs
Actual recurrent expenditure as per statement of outturn	59,327,399
Provisions and accruals	
Staff Costs	3,335,669
Advertising	7,576
Bank charges	(10,684)
Board members fees	(33,485)
Utilities	(735)
Printing, postage and stationery	(582,838)
Telephone	(106,666)
Training	8,400
Travelling other	(5,690)
Staff Welfare	2,597
General expenses	(180,277)
Professional and legal charges	375,000
Rent of office premises	137,592
Repairs and maintenance	349,094
Motor vehicle running expenses	(68,663)
Projects:	
3D Printing Service Centres	(902)
Coding in Schools	73,689
Citizen Engagement Program	(130,240)
CERT MU	98,556
Capital Expenditure	(316,250)
Depreciation	<u>26,889,687</u>
Recurrent expenditure as per statement of financial performance	<u>89,168,830</u>

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 Information 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 Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act by the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act No.10 OF 2010, the Financial Statements 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

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).

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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) issued 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 circumstances.

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 2021 various disclosures are required.

The following IPSAS were in issue but effective as at 30 June 2020 and there has not been early adoption of these standards.

<i>IPSAS</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
IPSAS 41 Financial Instrument Recognition and	Effective from 1 January 2022
IPSAS 42 Accounting for Social Benefits Expenditure	Effective from 1 January 2022

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Revenue recognition

(i) Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Revenue from non-exchange transactions, consists primarily of government grants. It is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the organisation and the revenue can be reliably measured.

(ii) Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions comprises mainly of income received from sale of stand and sponsorship for Infotech and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

(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

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 and Contingent Liabilities

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.

Other commitments, which do not meet the recognition criteria for liabilities, are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements as contingent liabilities when their existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events which are not wholly within the control of the National Computer Board.

(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.

Capital Grant is recognised on an accrual basis in the Statement of Financial Performance.

(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 Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they fall due.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

6 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(h) Retirement benefit costs (Continued)

Defined contribution pension plans

(ii) Defined Retirement Benefits Plan

Under the defined benefit scheme, the cost of providing the benefit is determined in accordance with actuarial review. The present value of defined benefit obligation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as a non-current liability or non-current asset after adjusting for fair value of plan assets.

Service Cost, net interest expense/revenue, fund expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. Remeasurements are recognised in Statement of Changes in Net Asset/Equity.

(iii) Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

The Defined Contribution Pension Scheme was set up after amendment to Statutory Bodies Pension Fund Act 1978, further to the recommendations of the PRB Report 2013. As from January 2013, all new entrants who joined a statutory body must also join the Defined Contribution Scheme with employee contribution of 6% and employer contribution of 12%. Contributions to the scheme by the National Computer Board are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance in the period to which it relates.

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

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 2021

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 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

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 para-statal 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.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 2021**

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 the financial year 2021 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.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

8. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	<u>30-Jun-21</u>	<u>30-Jun-20</u>
	Rs.	Rs.
Cash deposited in MUR Account	32,839,949	13,959,546
Cash deposited in USD Account	1,052,304	981,427
Cash deposited in EURO Account	1,917,165	1,783,315
	<u>35,809,418</u>	<u>16,724,288</u>
	<u>30-Jun-21</u>	<u>30-Jun-20</u>
	Rs.	Rs.
9. RECEIVABLES FROM NON EXCHANGE TRANSACTION		
GOC Capital grant		2,414,930
		<u>2,414,930</u>
10. RECEIVABLES FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTION		
Trade receivables	6,123,069	6,460,469
Other Receivables	7,447,712	14,744,533
	<u>13,570,781</u>	<u>21,205,002</u>
Asset in Progress	7,156,600	7,862,623
	<u>7,156,600</u>	<u>7,862,623</u>
	<u>30-Jun-21</u>	<u>30-Jun-20</u>
	Rs.	Rs.
11. CAR LOAN		
Balance as at 1 July	6,698,917	4,155,984
Repayment during the year	(1,607,513)	(1,802,763)
New car loan issued during the year	980,000	4,345,696
Balance as at 30 June	<u>6,071,404</u>	<u>6,698,917</u>
Less: Amount due within one year	(1,532,742)	(1,513,941)
Amount falling due after more than one year	4,538,662	5,184,976
12. INVENTORIES		
	<u>30-Jun-21</u>	<u>30-Jun-20</u>
	Rs.	Rs.
Stores and office stationery	76,021	214,615

Note: All stocks are at cost

All costs of inventories have been expensed during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Motor vehicles	Office equipment	Furniture and fittings	Total
COST/ VALUATION	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
At 01 July 2020	5,202,723	281,333,279	23,602,363	310,138,365
Diposal				
Additions	-	31,280,457	-	31,280,457
At 30 June 2021	5,202,723	312,613,736	23,602,363	341,418,822
DEPRECIATION				
At 01 July 2020	4,483,900	236,227,969	20,863,863	261,575,732
Diposal				
Charge for the year	306,005	21,741,620	702,236	22,749,861
At 30 June 2021	4,789,905	257,969,589	21,566,099	284,325,593
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30 June 2021	412,818	54,644,147	2,036,264	57,093,229
At 01 July 2020	718,822	45,105,310	2,738,500	48,562,633

Note:

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

14. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
Computer Software:	Rs.	Rs.
Cost		
Opening balance at 01 July 2020	114,637,222	99,016,411
Acquisitions	3,291,612	15,620,811
Ending balance at 30 June 2021	117,928,834	114,637,222
Amortisation and impairment losses		
Balance at 01 July 2020	92,598,755	86,942,239
Charge for the year	4,139,826	5,656,516
Balance at 30 June 2021	96,738,582	92,598,755
Carrying amounts:		
At 30 June 2021	21,190,252	22,038,466

15. RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

(a) Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The National Computer Board operates a defined benefit pension scheme for qualifying employees which is managed by SICOM Ltd. Under the scheme, the employees are entitled to retirement benefits at 66.6 per cent of their final salary on attainment of retirement age. The schemes are funded. The most recent actuarial valuations of the plan assets and the present value of the defined contribution obligation were carried out at 30 June 2020 by SICOM Ltd. The present value of the defined contribution obligation, the related current service costs and past service costs were measured using the projected unit credit method.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
15. RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (Continued)	Rs.	Rs.
Amounts recognised in statement of financial position at the end of the year		
Defined benefit obligation	95,883,761	79,639,683
Fair value of plan assets	(67,195,586)	(59,799,556)
Liability recognised in statement of financial position at end of year	28,688,175	19,840,127
Amounts recognised in statement of financial performance:		
Service cost:		
Current service cost	4,849,357	4,187,358
(Employee contributions)	(1,217,189)	(1,833,046)
Fund expenses	181,597	91,652
Interest cost	693,584	219,773
Expected return on plan assets	4,507,349	2,665,737
Remeasurement		
Liability (gain)/loss	7,995,136	16,012,759
Assets (gain)/loss	(1,887,447)	(2,351,753)
Net Assets/Equity (NAE)	6,107,689	13,661,006
Total	10,615,038	16,326,743
Movement in liability recognised in statement of financial position:		
At start of year	19,840,124	6,262,953
Amount recognised in P&L	4,507,349	2,665,737
(Contributions paid by employer)	(1,766,990)	(2,749,569)
Amount recognised in NAE	6,107,689	13,661,003
At end of year	28,688,172	19,840,124

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.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
15. RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (Continued)	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation</i>		
Present value of obligation at start of period	79,639,683	60,666,328
Current service costs	4,849,357	4,187,358
Interest costs	3,026,308	2,305,320
(Benefits paid)	373,277	(3,532,082)
Liability (gain) / loss	7,995,136	16,012,759
Present value of obligations at end of period	95,883,761	79,639,683
<i>Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets</i>		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	59,799,556	54,403,375
Expected return on plan assets	2,332,724	2,085,547
Employer contributions	1,766,990	2,749,569
Employee contributions	1,217,189	1,833,046
Benefits paid and other outgo	191,680	(3,623,734)
Asset gain/(loss)	1,887,447	2,351,753
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	67,195,586	59,799,556
<i>Distribution of plan assets at end of period</i>		
<i>Percentage of assets at end of year</i>		
	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
Government securities and cash	54.80%	61.70%
Loans	2.80%	3.10%
Local equities	11.80%	10.10%
Overseas bonds and equities	30.10%	24.50%
Property	0.50%	0.60%
Total	100.00%	100.00%
<i>Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity</i>		
<i>Percentage of assets at end of year</i>		
	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
	(%)	(%)
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
<i>Components of the amount recognized in NAE</i>		
Year	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
Currency	Rs	Rs
Asset experience gain/(loss) during the period	1,887,447	2,351,753
Liability experience gain/(loss) during the period	(7,995,136)	(16,012,759)
	(6,107,689)	(13,661,006)
Year	2021-2022	2020/2021
Expected employer contributions	3,360,214	2,544,058
Weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation (Calculated as a % change in PV of liabilities for a 1% change in discount rate)		22 years

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

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:

	<u>30-Jun-21</u>	<u>30-Jun-20</u>
Discount rate	5.00%	3.80%
Future salary increases	3.00%	2.40%
Future pension increases	2.00%	1.40%
Mortality before retirement	A 6770 Ultimate Tables	
Mortality in retirement	PA 90 Tables rated down by 2 years	
Retirement age	As per second Schedule in the Statutory 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 occurring 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 17.7M (increase by Rs 23.4M) 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 14.2M (decrease by Rs 11.8M) if all assumptions were held unchanged.

If life expectancy would increase (decrease) by one year, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 2.5M (decrease by Rs 2.5M) 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.

(b) Defined Contribution Pension Plan

The contribution of the National Computer Board to the Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for the year ended 30 June 2021 is Rs 1,479,520

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021**

	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
	Rs.	Rs.
16. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Provision for passage benefits	1,000,000	1,000,000
Provision for Professional Fees : Audit Fees	400,000	400,000
Legal Fees	48,000	48,000
Other payables	15,557,425	8,709,083
	17,005,425	10,157,083
Car loan (see note below)	1,532,742	1,513,941
(a) Car Loan		
Balance as at 1 July	6,698,917	6,020,984
Repayment during the year	(1,607,513)	(1,802,763)
New car loan issued during the year	980,000	1,530,696
New car loan not yet issued during the year		950,000
Balance as at 30 June	6,071,404	6,698,917
Less: Amount due within one year	(1,532,742)	(1,513,941)
Amount falling due after more than one year	4,538,662	5,184,976
17. EMPLOYEES BENEFIT		
Provision for Passage Benefits	3,919,051	2,607,748
Provision for Sick Leave	15,584,603	14,833,494
	19,503,654	17,441,242
(a) Provision for Passage Benefits		
Balance as at 1 July	3,607,748	3,222,162
Paid during the year	(500,375)	(1,188,488)
Provision for the year	1,811,678	1,574,074
Balance as at 30 June	4,919,051	3,607,748
Less: Amount due within one year	1,000,000	1,000,000
Amount falling due after more than one year	3,919,051	2,607,748
(b) Provision for sick leave		
Balance as at 1 July	14,833,494	13,804,954
Paid during the year	-	(1,846,927)
Provision for sick leave	751,110	2,875,467
Balance as at 30 June	15,584,603	14,833,494
Less: Amount due within one year	-	-
Amount falling due after more than one year	15,584,603	14,833,494
(c) Contingent Liability		

The National Computer Board has contingent liabilities in respect of 1 court case. It is as follows:

Case

(i) Ghansiam Rao Bhojroo v/s National Computer Board

Industrial Court

However, it is difficult to give a prudent estimate of their financial effects at this stage.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

18. Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
	Rs.	Rs.
Government grant	62,286,720	71,690,296
Government on Line Centre - Operation Grant	81,698,513	65,527,362
Government on Line Centre - Capital Grant	28,345,200	38,305,389
	172,330,432	175,523,047
19 Revenue from Exchange Transactions		
Other Income		
IT coach	65,400	61,800
CERT MU	1,425,507	731,000
Miscellaneous Income	204,226	113,866
IST Africa		280,000
Exchange gain	21,357	347,583
Total of Other Income	1,716,491	1,534,249
Infotech	-	4,533,380
Interest	4,504	33,551
	1,720,994	6,101,180

20 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.

21 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 2021.

22 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.

23 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.

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	<u>30-Jun-21</u>
	Rs.
24 GOVERNMENT GRANT	
Government Grant NCB :	
Recurrent	61,435,720
Capital	851,000
	<hr/>
	<u>62,286,720</u>

NATIONAL COMPUTER BOARD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
	Rs.	Rs.
25 EXPENDITURE		
DIRECT EXPENSES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS		
InnovTech	-	5,916,363
Planning, Research & Development	-	1,735,344
Government Online Center	65,853,416	79,036,274
E services	4,167,761	6,981,928
3D Printing Centres	779,269	297,768
IT Coach		2,033,586
DYEP	1,002,926	
UIEP	125,898	180,348
Cert MU	863,550	319,251
	72,792,820	96,500,861
26 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	Rs.	Rs.
Staff costs	42,517,268	44,184,977
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
It skills	-	100,716
Advertising	210,163	186,547
Bank charges	29,467	60,455
Board members fees	408,134	413,205
Utilities	1,510,396	753,959
Insurance	26,641	6,225
Printing, postage and stationery	146,252	902,656
Telephone	1,236,995	1,469,482
Training	15,961	16,590
Travelling other	9,528	63,997
Staff Welfare	64,613	297,847
General expenses	337,387	459,038
Professional and legal charges	661,370	133,800
Rent of office premises	5,997,647	5,480,281
Repairs and maintenance	1,595,993	1,555,137
Motor vehicle running expenses	101,679	104,657
Miscellaneous	147,946	
Conference/Seminars	322,297	75,329
	12,822,470	12,079,921
Total Administrative Expenses	55,339,738	56,264,898
Depreciation	26,889,687	24,437,861
	82,229,425	80,702,759
Total	155,022,246	177,203,620
	Rs.	Rs.
BREAKDOWN OF STAFF COSTS		
Salaries	28,969,365	27,356,298
Levy	30,451	45,600
Pension costs	4,163,638	5,478,457
FPS	945,177	424,344
NSF	199,182	191,163
PAYE	1,886,195	4,291,375
CSG	2,391,569	
Allowance		345,662
Medical Scheme	1,368,903	771,965
Movement in Passage benefit	1,811,678	1,574,074
Movement in Sick Leave	751,110	3,211,536
Vacation		494,503
	42,517,268	44,184,977