



Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
(Industrial Development Division)

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022



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STATEMENT FROM HONOURABLE MINISTER



I feel pleased and honoured to share my thoughts in this new edition of the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Division of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives for the financial year **2021/2022**. Indeed, it is a privilege to be associated with this initiative which is a proof of transparency for judicious use of public resources to improve living standards through industrial advancement.

At the outset, I wish to emphasise that the industrial sector focusing on manufacturing of goods is the single largest contributor to Gross Domestic Product. It is also the main driver in terms of foreign exchange earnings. At the same time, it employs a sizeable portion of the workforce. As a matter of fact, every effort is being made by the Government to ensure its sustainability for a stronger and more resilient future.

It is worth mentioning that the performance of manufacturing sector, which is predominantly export-led, is correlated with the vagaries of international developments. The reverberations of the Russian-Ukraine War coupled with the effects of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and the new challenge of the monkey pox disease are smearing the outlook of the global economy. Against the backdrop of these challenges, our manufacturing sector is having to grapple with impediments associated with supply-chain disruptions, inflationary pressures as well as rising commodity and energy prices.

I am aware that these unfortunate circumstances are already taking a toll on the costs of production of manufacturing enterprises, thereby impacting on their overall competitiveness.

Amidst this turn of events, I deem it appropriate to highlight the economic performance achieved in **2021** for the manufacturing sector, which clearly demonstrates that the country bounced back forcefully from the turbulences of the Covid-19 pandemic. All sectors of the economy posted growth rates after major contractions in **2020**. Manufacturing has been among the front-runners with **11%** progression in output. Similarly, export of manufactured goods increased by **16.5%**. The feel-good factor is back and our export enterprises are riding the wave with full orders in hand. The sector is even in dire need of additional labour force to cope with increasing demand. On the whole, this growth momentum is set to be maintained in the near future.

At Government level, we are pleased with the remarkable achievement of the manufacturing sector, which is evolving in a highly volatile trading environment. On my side, I have continued to maintain close proximity with operators through regular meetings and site visits to assess their difficulties and provide targeted solutions. During the last financial year, my Ministry has also been playing an active role to support the manufacturing sector. In this context, a number of activities has been organised such as conferences and workshops both locally and internationally to come up with concrete proposals for the future sustained growth of the manufacturing sector.

I wish to place on record the perseverance, dedication and resilience displayed by our industry captains in the face of unprecedented challenges. I fully acknowledge the sacrifices, determination and hard work of all employees in the manufacturing sector who have always demonstrated their mettle throughout the industrial development journey. I wish to assure that Government will continue to be on their side at all times to push further the frontier of industrial expansion. On this note, the plethora of support measures put in place will be critical to ensure their long-term viability.

To conclude, I would like to thank the staff of my Ministry for preparation of the Annual Report **2021-2022** and for their commitment and dedication towards achieving “*a globally competitive and sustainable industrial sector*”.

Soomilduth Bholah

Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

STATEMENT FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY



As the yearly tradition lives on, I am pleased to once again be associated with the presentation of the Annual Report of the Industrial Development Division for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

During these testing times, fraught with a substantial dose of uncertainty devolving from slower growth and narrowing opportunities, this Division has played its prominent role to maintain the resilience of the manufacturing sector. It has continually assessed the challenges, including skills requirements, being faced by industry operators. We ensured active collaboration with our local, regional and international partners through various events, including workshops/seminars, held both locally and internationally to push ahead the industrial development agenda.

Whilst focusing on its main role as facilitator, this Division has not overlooked other issues of national interest, including sustainability. In this context, we have embarked on an energy-saving journey to reduce electricity consumption and to constantly identify possible ways to become more energy-efficient.

A key lesson has been drawn from the COVID-19 crisis and other unprecedented threats, whereby we have become more conscious of the need to embrace technology in our work environment. This Division has already embarked on this pathway and is gradually upgrading its IT infrastructure.

Relevant staff members have been duly provided with laptops to ensure business continuity and uninterrupted service in the face of any unforeseen circumstances.

Furthermore, as part of the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in the Republic of Mauritius 2020-2024, a Buddy Club has been constituted and it has as objective to foster positive role modelling from men/women leaders and to create a community of practice on positive messaging in both public and private sectors, with a view to promoting Gender Mainstreaming.

With regard to our Departments, I wish to highlight the important roles being played by the Assay Office in providing testing services in the jewellery sector and by MAURITAS which is positioning itself as a local and regional player in bringing accreditation services to the next level.

The three Statutory Bodies operating under the aegis of this Division have also fared well. The Mauritius Standards Bureau is broadening its services through the introduction of new standards and certifications having sustainability components.

The Fashion and Design Institute (FDI) has, on its part, dominated the scene locally, regionally and internationally through its participation in fashion shows and competitions held in Mauritius, Djibouti and Dubai. The emotion was palpable when Mauritius won the Best Stylist prize in the 'Salon International du Textile Africain' in Djibouti in November 2021. The FDI is now transitioning into an Academy of Design and Innovation with a much wider role in multi-sectorial design fields.

As for the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, amongst other initiatives, it has embarked on an “Enterprise Go Digital” programme to assist Small and Medium Enterprises increase productivity and strengthen their resilience through digitalisation, in keeping up with the pace of technological advancement.

The Industrial Development Division has remained vibrant and on the move towards achieving its overarching goals. I wish to thank all staff of the Division, its Departments, Statutory Bodies and the Editorial Team, who have contributed in making this success possible.

Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed (Mrs)
Permanent Secretary

PART 1

ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION





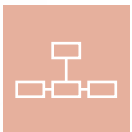
VISION

An innovation-led industrial sector.



MISSION

To act as a facilitator and catalyst for the development of a resilient, vibrant and competitive manufacturing sector with a view to fostering employment creation and generating wealth for higher economic growth.



ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- Promotion of sustainable industrial development.
- Acts as a facilitator and catalyst through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies, programmes and strategies for the emergence of a strong, modern and diversified manufacturing base.



MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To provide effective and efficient support services to the industrial sector
- To promote globally competitive industries through adoption of high-end technologies
- To stimulate technology and generate productivity gains in all sectors of the economy
- To stimulate exports in existing and emerging markets
- To enhance market access through internationally recognised standards
- To support the development of quality infrastructure based on international standards
- To support green, socially responsible and quality initiatives in enterprises

Main Industrial Policies in the Industrial Policy & Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

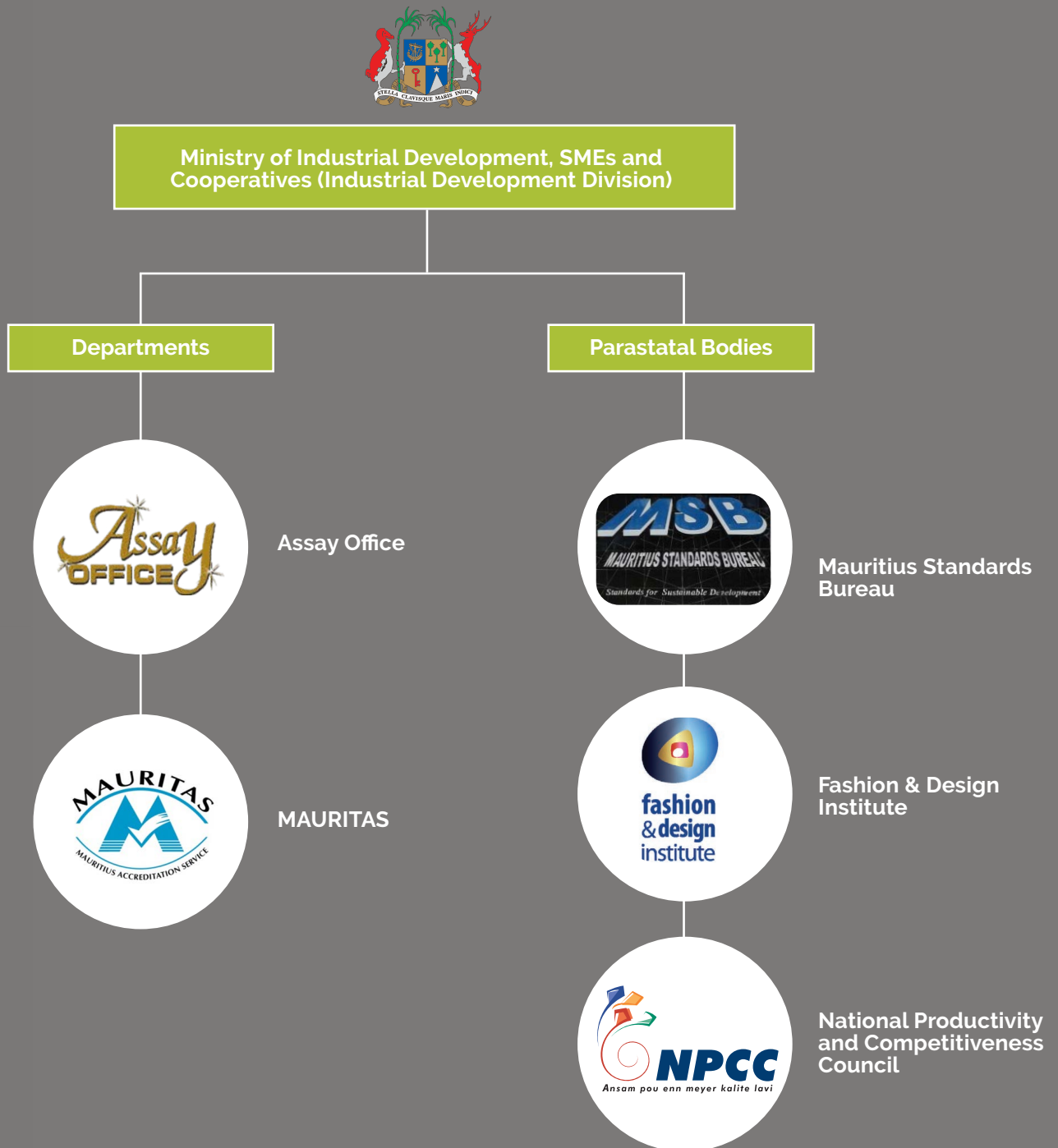


Main Customers





Departments of the Industrial Development Division and Parastatal Bodies operating under the Division



Departments of the Industrial Development Division and Parastatal Bodies operating under the Division



Assay Office

- Regulates the manufacture, sale and importation of gold, silver, palladium and platinum jewellery, and precious/semi-precious stones under the Jewellery Act 2007.
- Registers jewellers dealing in precious metals and jewellery made of gold, silver, palladium and platinum, and precious or semi-precious stones.
- Assays jewellery made of gold, silver, palladium and platinum and their alloys.
- Verifies gemstones and grades diamonds.
- Please visit www.assayoffice.org for additional information.



MAURITAS

- Established as the national accreditation body following the enactment of the Mauritius Accreditation Service Act 1998.
- Provides a national unified service for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (e.g. laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies) to international standards.
- Establishes agreements on mutual recognition with other national, regional and international accreditation bodies and to obtain and maintain international acceptance of the competence of conformity assessment bodies accredited by MAURITAS.
- Please visit www.mauritas.org for more information.

Departments of the Industrial Development Division and Parastatal Bodies operating under the Division



Mauritius Standards Bureau

- Set up in 1975 and became a corporate body under the Mauritius Standards Bureau Act 1993.
- Develops standards, conducts testing and calibration, certifies products and management systems and also provides training in quality related issues.
- Acts as the custodian of the national measurement standards and is the National Enquiry Point for WTO/TBT issues.
- Implements strategic directions provided by the Standards Council which ensures that the organisation meets its corporate objectives.
- Please visit <http://msb.intnet.mu/> for additional information.



**fashion
& design
institute**

Fashion & Design Institute

- Set up in September 2009 under the Fashion and Design Act 2008 to promote excellence in the field of design education.
- Provides academic courses and short courses in the field of Art and Design, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design, Interactive Media, Interior Design and Jewellery Manufacturing and Design.
- Conducts training for the Jewellery sector in fields such as design, stone setting, casting and engraving.
- Offers consultancy services to the business community and organises fashion shows, artistic exhibitions to showcase the skills and talents of its students.
- Ensures collaboration with the private sector through a Consultative Committee
- Please visit <http://www.fdi.mu/> for additional information.



National Productivity and Competitiveness Council

- Established in 2000 as a national body under the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council Act of 1999.
- Fosters a productivity culture and stimulates productivity gains in all sectors of the economy through the organisation of training courses, in-plant interventions, sensitisation campaigns and webinars.
- Organises annual productivity award competition at national level.
- Please visit <http://www.npccmauritius.org> for additional information.



Gender Statement

The Gender Statement of the Industrial Development Division is as follows:



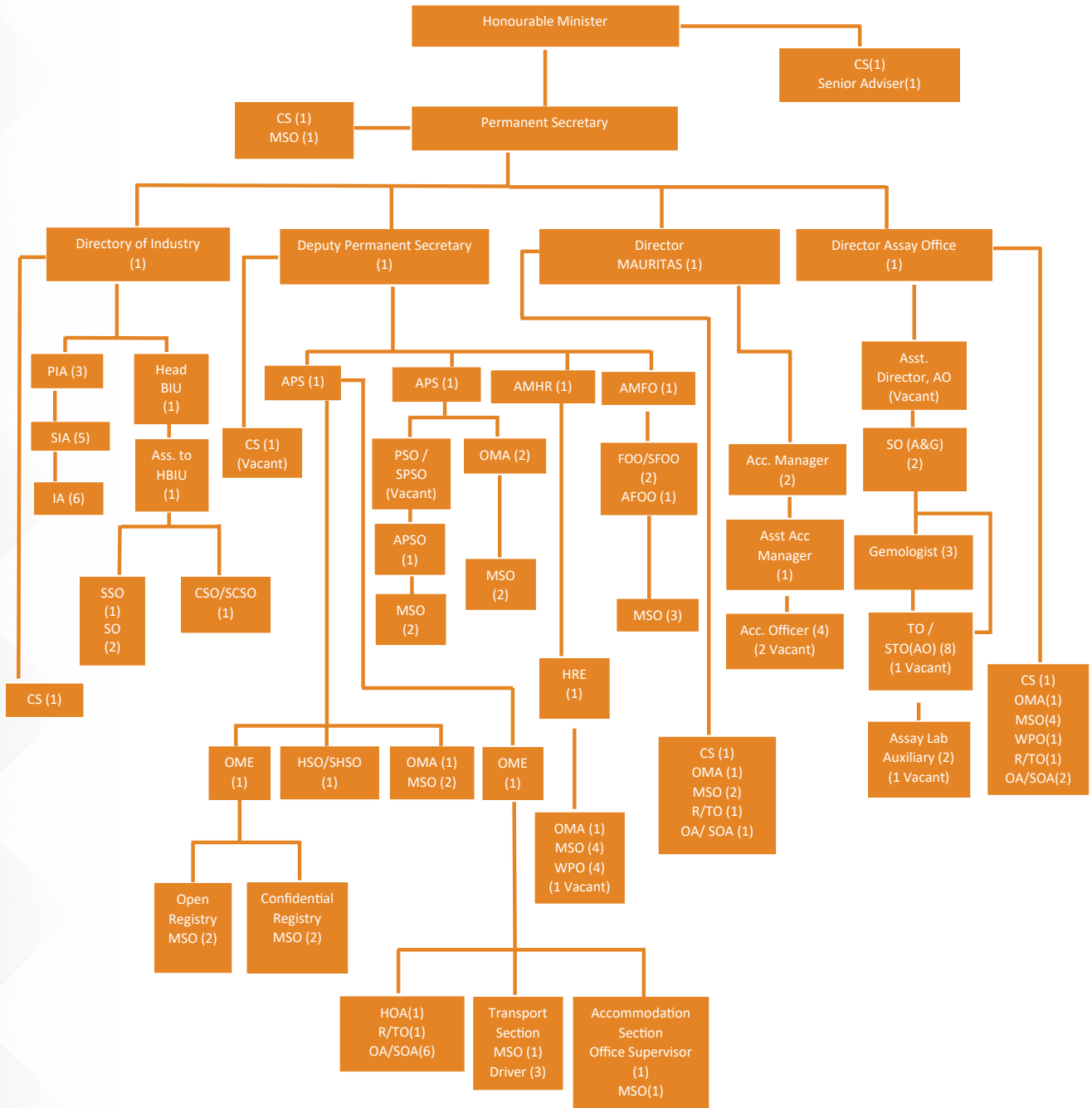
In line with the National Strategy and Action Plan of the High-level Committee on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence in the Republic of Mauritius 2020-2024, the Industrial Development Division has constituted a Buddy Club to identify gender gaps and promote gender equality at the Division and the manufacturing sector. The Buddy Club is chaired by Mr. P.S. Seeboo, Assistant Permanent Secretary and has as members, officers from Administration, Technical Cadre and Departments such as Assay Office and MAURITAS. The Buddy Club is currently in the process of finalising its calendar of activities for financial year 2022-2023.



Members of Buddy Club

About Our People

Organisational Structure (Industrial Development Division)



APS – Assistant Permanent Secretary
 AMHR- Assistant Manager, Human Resources
 AMFO – Assistant Manager Financial Operations
 Acc. Manager – Accreditation Manager
 Acc Officer – Accreditation Officer
 Asst. Acc Manager – Assistant Accreditation Manager
 AFOO – Assistant Financial Operations Officer
 APSO – Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer
 Head BIU – Head, Business Information Unit
 Asst. to HBIU- Assistant to Head Business Information Unit
 Asst. Director, AO – Assistant Director, Assay Office
 CS – Confidential Secretary
 CSO/SCSO – Computer Support Officer/Senior Computer Support Officer
 FOO/SFOO – Financial Operations/Senior Financial Operations Officer

HOA- Head Office Auxiliary
 HRE – Human Resource Executive
 IA – Industrial Analyst
 MSO-Management Support Officer
 OME – Office Management Executive
 OMA – Office Management Assistant
 OA/SOA – Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary
 PIA – Principal Industrial Analyst
 PSO/SPSO – Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer
 R/TO - Receptionist/Telephone Operator
 SHO/SSHO – Safety and Health Officer/Senior Safety and Health Officer
 SO (A&G) – Scientific Officer (Assay and Gemmology)
 SIA – Senior Industrial Analyst
 SSO – Senior Statistical Officer
 SO – Statistical Officer
 TO/STO (AO) -Technical Officer/Senior Technical Officer (Assay Office)
 WPO – Word Processing Operator

Industrial Development Division – Team Members



Honourable Minister & Head of Sections

Seated: Honourable S. Bholah (Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives) & Mrs. B. F. Abdool Raman Ahmed (Permanent Secretary)

From Left to Right: Mrs. S. A. Carrim (Principal Industrial Analyst), Mr. S. Beemadoo (Office Management Executive), Mrs. B. Ramlall (Management Support Officer), Mr. R. Bharosay (Principal Industrial Analyst), Mrs. N. B. Saumtally (Assistant Manager Financial Operations), Dr. R. Domun (Principal Industrial Analyst), Mr. A. Paul (Director of Industry), Mr. B. Moothoosamy (Head, Business Information Unit), Mr. P. S. Seeboo (Assistant Permanent Secretary), Mrs. S. Ramchurn (Human Resource Executive), Mr. N. Gopaul (Head, Office Auxiliary), Mr. H. B. Aubdoollah (Ag. Procurement and Supply Officer / Senior Procurement and Supply Officer) & Mrs. F. F. Laltha (Word Processing Operator)

Human Resource Development

As rightly stated by Steve Jobs, ‘You cannot mandate productivity, you must provide the tools to let people become their best’. Our people is our strength, alone we can do so little and together we can do so much to deliver an efficient and effective delivery of services to all our stakeholders, thus achieving the vision and mission of the Industrial Development Division.

The Industrial Development Division emphasises professional development where staff undergo training and pursue learning opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge. We firmly believe in continued learning that nurtures employees and help them to progress in their individual career paths. We give much priority to employees’ development as it ensures that skills of our team members continue to evolve in accordance with industry trends and best practices.

During the year 2021/2022, officers were nominated as per training needs identified by their respective Heads of Sections/Departments, taking into consideration weaknesses highlighted and requests for training made during the performance appraisal exercise.

In this context, **one hundred and forty-two (142)** officers of various grades attended different training courses as follows:

- **Seventy-eight (78)** officers were trained by the Civil Service College of Mauritius (CSCM) and the Ministry of Public service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms (MPSAIR);
- **Fifteen (15)** officers attended free online courses conducted by CSCM;
- **Fourteen (14)** officers participated in an in-house Speech Writing course by the Civil Service College Mauritius;
- **Ten (10)** officers were trained in-house in “First Aid at work” by St John Ambulance;
- **Seventeen (17)** officers were trained in-house on “Official Secrets Act and Code of Ethics”; and
- **Eight (8)** officers had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge in specific areas through participation in virtual training, seminars and workshops.

In-house Training Sessions

Official Secrets Act and Code of Ethics



This training session was conducted in-house by the Civil Service College. The objectives were to sensitise officers on the importance of protecting state secrets and confidential information and to take appropriate precautionary measures for the safekeeping such information.

Speech Writing



The Civil Service College carried out this training to enable officers of the Ministry be equipped with the necessary techniques for effective speech writing.

Awareness Sessions



A half-day training session on **Citizen Support Portal** was held by the Citizen Support Unit of the Prime Minister's Office to provide this Ministry with proper guidelines on handling complaints efficiently and for the integration of all complaints received under the same platform.



Talk on energy conservation and energy efficiency by staff of the Electricity Efficiency Management Office in order to help the staff to have better understanding on the process of reducing electricity consumption.

Work Placement

The Industrial Development Division offered work placement to young graduates, school leavers and university students so that they acquire necessary skills, competencies and working experience as follows:



- **Service to Mauritius Programme (1)**
- **Trainee under Youth Employment Programme (3)**
- **Interns under Work Placement Programme (3)**

Remembering the contribution of our Staff Members and wishing them All the Best



Happy Retirement

- **Mr. Indiran MOOTHOSAMY**, Driver retired from the Public Service in March 2022.

Good Bye & Good Luck

- **Mr. Jean Daniel Philippe LABONNE**, Deputy Permanent Secretary has been posted to the SMEs Division.
- **Mrs. Fathema Bibi AUMEERUDDY**, Confidential Secretary has been posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.
- **Mrs. Simla NOLAN**, Office Management Assistant has been transferred to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade on 11 November 2021.
- **Ms. Haseena Banu BADULLA**, Management Support Officer, is on one-year study leave without pay from 13 March 2022.



Warm welcome to our Newcomers

Welcome



- **Mrs. Sarvedi SAMYNADEN**, Deputy Permanent Secretary
- **Mr. Soobramanien BEEMADOO**, Office Management Executive
- **Mr. Khemraj AUBEELUCK**, Office Management Assistant
- **Mr. Kailash GUNGABISSOON**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Mrs. Meenakshi Devi GEERISH**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Jayalakshmi DABY**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Najood Sumayya Bint Sadeck SOBRATTY**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Vandana BEEHAREE**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Hadiyah MUDHOO**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Jeunisha SORTHEAPAH**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Kushna Yuveena GOKOOL**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Miss Thriya HEMRAZ**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Mrs Bibi Nafeezah HEERAH**, Employed to give assistance at Management Support Officer level
- **Mr. Chhavish NEELADOO**, Receptionist/Telephone Operator
- **Mrs. Luxchmi Devi ANDONY**, Temporary Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary

Workforce Planning/Succession Planning

In order to ensure better seamless service delivery, action has been initiated for the filling of vacancies in the grade of Assistant Director (Assay Office), Accreditation Officer, Technical Officer/Senior Technical Officer (Assay Office) Driver and Assay Laboratory Auxiliary.

Safety and Health at the Workplace

The Ministry has, in accordance with Section 21 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, established a Safety and Health Committee, which is chaired by the Director of MAURITAS.

A Safety and Health Officer from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms is posted at the Division and provides assistance in matters of occupational safety and health.

During the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the Committee held five meetings to look into safety and health issues across all units of the Ministry. The recommendations and proposals of the Safety and Health Committee were given prompt attention so as to ward off any risk to the safety and health of officers.

COVID-19 Dedicated Response Team

The COVID-19 Dedicated Response Team (DRT), has been set up in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, and comprises staff operating at different levels within the Ministry and its Departments. The DRT met, under the chair of the Permanent Secretary, with a view to ensuring compliance with the sanitary measures established at the workplace, protecting Public Officers from any risk of contamination, and addressing any other COVID-19 related issues.



PART 2

MINISTRY/ DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES



Major Achievements of the Manufacturing Sector

Manufacturing

- The manufacturing sector is one of the most important sectors of the Mauritian economy with a contribution of **13.3%** to Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2021.
- The GVA in the manufacturing sector amounted to **Rs 55.12 billion** in 2021.
- In 2021, the manufacturing output stood at **Rs 129.5 billion** whereby about **35%** was destined to the export markets.
- The manufacturing sector comprises **233** Export Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) geared towards the export markets and **325** large Domestic Oriented Enterprises (DOEs) catering for the domestic market. The sector provides employment to around **85,000** people.
- The sector encompasses textile and clothing, food processing, fish and fish preparations, jewellery and precious stones, medical devices, light engineering, wood furniture, printing and publishing, watches and clocks, optical goods, injection plastic moulding and chemicals activities.

Exports

- Domestic exports (excluding sugar) stood at **Rs 45.2 billion** in 2021.
- At sectoral level, textile and apparel sub-sector accounted for around **46.4%** of domestic exports (excluding sugar) in 2021. Other export manufacturing activities contributing effectively to domestic exports are fish and fish preparations (**22%**), jewellery/precious stones (**2.9%**), medical devices (**3.6%**) and watches and clocks (**2.8%**).
- The main export markets are South Africa, UK, France, USA, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and Madagascar.

Market Diversification

- In an attempt to rebalance our exports, continued efforts are being pursued for greater market diversification. The African region and emerging markets such as Australia, Eastern Europe, Gulf, Asian and Scandinavian countries along with Japan and Canada have been identified as having export growth potential.
- In 2021, an increase in exports of goods was registered in new markets such as Comoros Island (**114%**), Ireland (**79%**), UAE (**69%**), Australia (**64%**), China (**61%**), India (**61%**), Singapore (**57%**), Mayotte (**40%**), Russia (**30%**), Reunion Island (**28%**), Indonesia (**27%**), Ireland (**26%**), Kenya (**23%**), Switzerland (**22%**) and Seychelles (**10%**).

Major Achievements of the Manufacturing Sector

Industrial Expansion

- Our industrial development policy hinges on the broadening of our manufacturing base. In this context, the deepening of the industrial structure and emergence of new growth poles are high on our agenda.
- For 2021, the manufacturing sector recorded a total investment worth **Rs. 3.4 billion** on industrial building, plant and machinery, of which **Rs. 0.2 billion**, was in the form of Foreign Direct Investment.

Sustainable Industrial Development

- The Government, through its Programme 2020-2024, showed its commitment to move towards an inclusive, high income and green Mauritius. One of the specific objectives of Government is to promote reduction of the GHG emissions by 40% at national level. It is the policy of Government to promote greening of industries as the sector is export-oriented and its competitiveness depends largely on its ability to meet international norms including environmentally friendly production. In this connection, the Ministry is already treading on the path of sustainable industrial production to achieve higher economic growth. The Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) underlines the importance of sustainable production in the industrial transformation process.



Launching Ceremony of “Industrial Waste Management- Cost Structure Review” Report

- The Ministry has already implemented a project on “Industrial Waste Management- Cost Structure Review” with the assistance of UNIDO under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy initiative and in collaboration with Business Mauritius. The project aimed to study the cost burden of industrial solid waste management on manufacturing enterprises with a view to enhance their competitiveness. The Project subsequently helped in the formulation of a number of recommendations in the management of industrial solid waste to policymakers, the private sector and recyclers. The report was launched on 25 May 2022 at Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, Balaclava and it can be accessed on <https://industry.govmu.org/Pages/IWM%20Projects.aspx>



Launching Ceremony of “Industrial Waste Management - Cost Structure Review in the Republic of Mauritius” Report

Sustainable Industrial Development

- The Ministry has also participated actively in most of the fora promoting sustainable industrial development, including those related to the adoption of efficient use of inputs, waste recovery and green productivity.

National Conference on Circular Economy

- The Ministry participated in a three-day National Conference on Circular Economy organised by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme held from 25 to 27 May 2022 at Le Meridien Hotel, Pointe Aux Piments. The objectives of the Conference were to put forward the concept of Circular Economy, to analyse the current state of circularity in six sectors in Mauritius, amongst which was the manufacturing sector, identify potential challenges and opportunities, promote awareness and make recommendations on enabling measures for the implementation of Circular Economy in Mauritius. On the second day of the event, Honourable Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives delivered an Address in a session specifically dedicated to promoting circularity in the manufacturing sector.



Three Days' National Conference on Circular Economy: 'Circular Economy in the Manufacturing Sector',
Day 2 - Session 6 on Thursday 26 May 2022

Support to the Jewellery Sector



The Assay Office provides support to the development of the jewellery sector by providing assaying and gemmology services.

For the period July 2021 to June 2022, the Assay Office:

- registered **33** new jewellers bringing the total number of jewellers to **566**;
- verified **710** gemstones for identification and grading purposes;
- assayed **414** jewellery/alloys made of gold, silver and platinum;
- valued **278** gold jewellery certifying the gold contents in the jewellery items;
- endorsed **7,101** ownership declaration forms for sale of second-hand jewellery;
- carried out **528** inspection visits on the business premises of registered jewellers; and
- generated a revenue of **Rs 2.267** million.

Accreditation Services

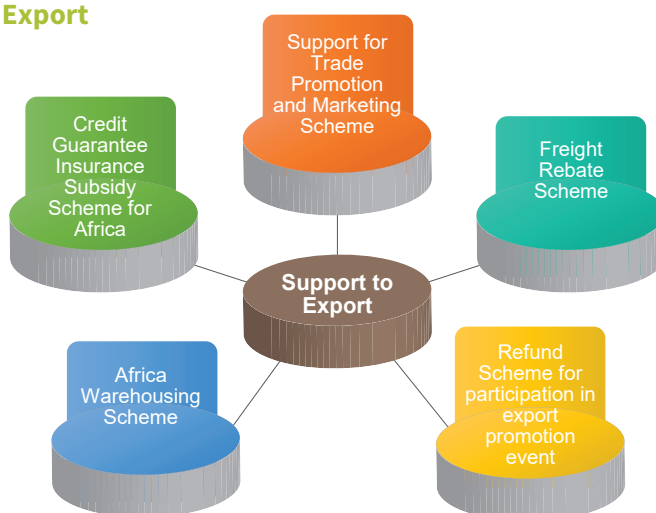


During the financial year 2021/2022, MAURITAS:

- Granted accreditation to **2** new laboratories, namely, **Abiolabs Ltd** (NATEC Medical Ltd) in the medical testing field on **12 January 2022** and the **Government Analyst Division** of the Ministry of Health & Wellness in the chemical and food testing fields on **27 April 2022**;
- Has extended the scope of 6 accredited laboratories, namely, **Les Moulins de la Concorde Ltee, Central Water Authority, Quantilab Ltd, Phoenix Beverages Ltd, Société Mauricienne de Saphirs Ltd and CDL Knits Ltd**;
- As at **30 June 2022**, the total number of conformity assessment bodies accredited stands at **35** which represents **867** parameters and **36** scope sectors;
- Successfully underwent its re-evaluation by African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) during **13 to 17 June 2022**. The re-evaluation was observed by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The re-evaluation of MAURITAS is a critical activity in view of maintaining the international recognition and acceptance of accreditation certificates issued to conformity assessment bodies by MAURITAS;
- Generated revenue to the tune of **Rs 2.6 million** for the provision of accreditation services.

Major Achievements of the Manufacturing Sector

Support to Export



The table below depicts the number of beneficiaries and amount disbursed for the different Schemes during the period July 2021 - June 2022.

Schemes	Support Provided	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Rs million)
Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme (TPMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 60% refund on air freight costs for exports of all agricultural and non-agricultural products produced/manufactured in Mauritius except for machinery, live animals and chemicals. The eligible markets are Africa (including Madagascar), USA, Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Middle East Countries & Vietnam. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2023. 	286	401
Freight Rebate Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A subsidy of 25% on sea freight costs either to a maximum of USD 300 per 20 ft. container or to a maximum of USD 600 per 40 ft. container for export of locally manufactured goods to selected ports in Africa. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2023 	41	14
Export Credit Guarantee Insurance Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A refund of 50% on the premium paid up to a maximum of 0.5% on the insurance policy taken on consignments for export to all market destinations. The scheme is valid up to 30 June 2022. 	11	4.3
Participation in International Fairs SME Refund Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A refund of Rs 200,000 annually on the cost of participation (airfare and accommodation) for small and medium enterprises participating in international fairs. 	8	0.8
Africa Warehousing Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme provides a 60% refund on annual warehousing costs incurred by Mauritian manufacturing entities operating warehouses in Tanzania. The refund is time-bound for 2 years and capped at Rs 1.2 mn for the 1st year and Rs 0.3 mn for the 2nd year. 	Nil	Nil

Implementation of Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

The Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (IPSP) (2020-2025) for Mauritius, prepared with the technical and financial assistance of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with this Ministry became effective as from 04 December 2020. The overall objective of the IPSP is to give a boost to the manufacturing sector and contribute further to the economic growth of the country.

The **Industrial Policy Executive Oversight Committee (IP-EOC)**, which oversees the implementation of the IPSP, is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division and ensures the timely realisation of the recommendations through the eight (8) Sub- Committees set up. **Around 53% of recommendations of the IPSP are at their implementation stage.**



Meeting of IP-EOC on 6 October 2021

The major achievements realised under the IPSP are as follows:

i. Skills Development

With regards to “Skills Development and Labour Flexibility” which is a key component of Industry Foundations, the Ministry organised a workshop on “Mapping Manufacturing Skills for the Future” on 11 November 2021 at The Westin Turtle Bay Resort and Spa, Balaclava. The main objective was to identify skills gap and future skills needs of the manufacturing sector. The salient recommendations that emerged from the Workshop are being implemented by relevant stakeholders to ensure that eventually the sector is adequately manned with a technically qualified and skilled workforce.



Workshop on “Mapping Manufacturing Skills for the Future”, held on 11 November 2022 at the Westin Turtle Bay, Balaclava

ii. Upgrading of Value Chains

Concerning the Focus Area “Upgrading Value Chains”, a major breakthrough has been achieved with the setting of a Modernisation and Transformation Fund (MTF) of Rs 5 billion which is managed by the Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius (IFCM) Ltd. This fund is in line with the two funding schemes mentioned in the IPSP document, namely, Manufacturing Upgrading Fund and Modernisation and Investment Support Fund. The MTF is proving to be instrumental to re-invigorate industrial development through the provision of leasing facilities at preferential rates, factoring services and equity financing to enable manufacturing enterprises upgrade their production capabilities and be more competitive.

Launching of IFCM Ltd



Launching Ceremony of IFCM Ltd on 24th February 2022

iii. Registration of export enterprises

For the last few years, new Export Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) were not being included in the list of EOEs maintained by the Statistics Unit based at this Ministry. This weakness was flagged in the IPSP. Further to a recommendation made by this Ministry, an Export Development Certificate was introduced in Budget 2021/2022, to allow for the registration of export enterprises and to subsequently enable them to benefit from an array of incentives such as 3% corporate tax, Freight Rebate Scheme, Support for Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme and preferential port handling charges. As at end June 2022, **42** enterprises have duly obtained their certificates issued by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

Major Activities of the Industrial Development Division

Missions Led by Honourable S. Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

“The Impact of Covid-19 on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa: Country Experiences and a focus on Building Back Better in Mauritius”

Sofitel The Obelisk, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 8 February 2022



Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives led a delegation from Mauritius to participate in a one-day seminar entitled “*The Impact of Covid-19 on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa: Country Experiences and a focus on Building Back Better in Mauritius*”. This Seminar was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Business Council and the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives of Mauritius, in a spirit of fostering the achievement of SDG 9 “*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation*”.

This event served as a follow-up to the two seminars held by SRO-SA and the SADC Business Council at the SADC Industrialisation Week in Lilongwe, Malawi in November that focused on strengthening competitiveness among MSMEs in Southern Africa.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF SEMINAR

- Promoting the sharing of experiences by both the public and private sector on the impact of Covid-19 on MSMEs in Southern Africa;
- Stimulating reflections on how MSMEs in Southern Africa can best build back better, especially in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), other trade agreements and regional collaboration;
- Enhancing awareness and information sharing on the industrial strategies being used by Governments in the region to build back better, with a focus on Mauritius;
- Identifying emerging challenges and opportunities facing the MSME and industrial sectors due to Covid-19;
- Highlighting Mauritius as a case example in Southern Africa in the area of manufacturing development and good practices and lessons that can inform their application in the sub-region;
- Using Mauritius as a case example, illustrate the type of strategies that can be pursued in the sub-region to create opportunities for MSMEs from industrialisation; and
- Engaging fruitful discussions on the future of manufacturing in Mauritius.



This hybrid event comprised two segments. The first segment focused on the theme “*Impact of Covid-19 on MSMEs in Southern Africa*”. The objective was to take stock of the impact of Covid-19 on MSMEs in Southern Africa, identify strategies to strengthen the resilience of MSMEs and chart out the way forward for building back better in the future. The Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division, Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed delivered a presentation in this session on the “*Impact of Covid-19 on MSMEs in Southern Africa: Country level experiences and the way forward under the AFCFTA*”, by sharing insights on the case of Mauritius.



The afternoon segment was a High-Level Conference on “*Enhancing the Resilience of Manufacturing Sector in Mauritius in the Post Covid-19 Era*”. The objectives were to discuss on how best to position Mauritius as a reliable sourcing destination and to deliberate on potential investment opportunities in the Mauritian manufacturing sector. The Honourable Minister delivered a Keynote Address during the Opening Ceremony of the Conference wherein he emphasised that enterprises in the manufacturing sector should undergo a metabolic industrial transformation, resting on the pillars of circularity and net zero carbon emission commitments around regenerative manufacturing, remanufacturing and carbon neutral production practices for enhanced prosperity.



The Plenary Session was moderated by Mr. Pierre Fallavier, Senior Development Coordination Advisor, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Mauritius & Seychelles. Speakers from Mauritius were: Dr. R. Domun, Principal Industrial Analyst, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division), Mrs. S. Boygah, General Manager, Mauritius Standards Bureau, Mr. G. Bucktowonsing, Director, Industry, Economic Development Board of Mauritius, Dr. Y. Ismaël, Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. B. Dubarry, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mauritian Manufacturers.

The speakers expressed their insights on how the Mauritian manufacturing sector is withstanding in the aftermath of Covid-19 through its resilience. They also focused their presentations on positioning Mauritius as a strategic partner for textile and apparel; boosting intra-regional trade through standards, certification, and testing, and charting out the future of the Mauritian manufacturing sector through the lens of the private sector.



High Level Panel Discussion on “Enhancing the Resilience of the Manufacturing Sector in a Post Covid-19 era”

Mission in the margin of Dubai Expo 2020.
14 to 19 March 2022, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Honourable Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives led a delegation comprising the Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division, officers of the Ministry and the Fashion and Design Institute (FDI) to participate in a series of impactful activities in the margin of the Dubai Expo 2020. The Honourable Minister and his delegation took part in the following events:



14 March 2022: The Retail Summit, Atlantis The Palm

The Retail Summit is a global event held annually to bring together players involved in international trade. This year's edition was held at Atlantis The Palm in Dubai from 14 to 15 March 2022. This event brings together approximately 800 business executives and speakers from around the world.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Dubai, His Excellency, Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum accompanied by a delegation was also present during one of the Plenary Sessions of the Retail Summit.

On 14 March 2022, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah acted as Speaker in one of the Panel Discussions which was themed "Exploring new horizons: revealing the secrets of success in emerging markets". During his intervention, the Honourable Minister showcased Mauritius as an ideal investment base and reliable sourcing destination.



The participation of the Ministry in this event was part of a collaborative arrangement with the Economic Development Board (EDB). The EDB also displayed "Made in Mauritius" products in the Exhibition Area of the Summit with the objective to put into the limelight the Mauritian "savoir faire" to a host of potential buyers mainly in the UAE and UK markets.



16 March 2022: Business Conference on “Mauritius: Our Journey towards Sustainable Transformation” at One & Only Royal Mirage Hotel

The Business Conference was organised by the EDB in collaboration with the Ministry. It aimed at positioning Mauritius as an ideal destination for business and bring to the forefront the transformation of Mauritius in its sustainability journey. During his Keynote Address, the Honourable Minister lauded the positive attributes of Mauritius as a propitious investment base and emerging manufacturing hub within the region.



Around 40 potential investors from the UAE attended the Conference involved in high-value activities such as electric vehicles, special sugar as well as rum and spirits.



16 March 2022: Fashion Show “Fashion Innov 1.0: Roots of the Future” at One & Only Royal Mirage Hotel

On 16 March 2022, the Fashion and Design Institute (FDI), which falls under the aegis of the Ministry, organised a Fashion Show themed “Fashion Innov 1.0: Roots of the Future”, jointly with the Economic Development Board at One and Only, Royal Mirage, Dubai.



The Fashion Show depicted the historical clothing of different cultures in Mauritius to contemporary fashion. It also illustrated the future trend towards sustainability through the collections developed by the FDI and local textile and clothing companies with the support of Carlin International, a Paris-based Agency of Trend Thinking.



Seventy-eight outfits designed by twenty-two Final Year Students of the FDI were showcased to display their knowhow and talent on the international scene. Around 170 attendees including fashion influencers, international fashion designers and gurus, buyers in the textile and fashion industry were present





17-19 March 2022: Three-day International Conference on “International Conference on Sustainable and Innovative Design” at The French Pavilion, Dubai Exhibition Centre and the Hilton Double Tree Hotel

This three-day International Conference was organised by the Fashion and Design Institute. It brought together international designers, researchers and students to share experiences in the field of design, innovation and sustainability through a fashion show, exhibition of sustainable apparel/materials as well as presentations.



Honourable S. Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives delivered an Address during the Opening Ceremony of the Conference while Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, conveyed the Closing Remarks on the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of this event.



The Fashion Show, which was organised in collaboration with Runway Dubai, promoted the collections of 8 Fashion designers from Italy, Dubai, Switzerland, India, Pakistan and Mauritius made from biodegradable and organic fabrics. Inspired by the concept of 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), designers have combined style, comfort and sustainability to demonstrate how they visualise the future of Fashion.



The Conference regrouped international speakers and designers to discuss on innovation and the future of the fashion industry. This Conference has proved to be the right forum in increasing the visibility of FDI as a leading institution in Design Education Excellence in the region.



20 March 2022: Visits at Dubai Industrial City and Asmak Ltd

The Honourable Minister along with members of his delegation effected a visit at the Dubai Industrial City, which is one of the largest manufacturing and logistics hub in Dubai. Dubai Industrial City was established in 2004 with the objective to accelerate the growth of the industrial sector in the UAE.



The Honourable Minister met with Mr. Saud Abu Al Shawareb, the Managing Director of the Dubai Industrial City and his team who gave an overview of the Industrial City. It rests on the concept of Work-Live-Play where factories, warehouses, logistics, workers' accommodation and recreational facilities are integrated within the same location.



Asmak Ltd

The Honourable Minister and his delegation also visited an enterprise in the fish processing sector located in the Dubai Industrial City, namely Asmak Ltd. Asmak Ltd is a leading provider of fresh and frozen seafood across the Middle East. The company has a state-of-the-art processing and distribution plant of 13,000 square meters which has the capacity to produce 40,000 tons of seafood annually.



Seminar: National Policy Dialogue for the Manufacturing Sector

23-24 March 2022, Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava



A two-day National Policy Dialogue on the Manufacturing Sector was organised by this Ministry, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Office for Africa (UNECA) from 23 to 24 March 2022 at the Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava.



The aim of the Policy Dialogue was to assess the present situation of the manufacturing sector in the light of new emerging challenges and to come up with concrete proposals to propel the future development of the sector. The first day of the Policy Dialogue was dedicated to the manufacturing sector and the second day focused on the textile and clothing sub-sector.



Around 50 participants from different public and private sector organisations as well as manufacturing enterprises participated in the two-day event. The Opening Ceremony was performed in the esteemed presence of Honourable S. Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, His Excellency Mr. Vincent Degert, Ambassador of the European Union to Mauritius and other dignitaries from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNECA.

In his Opening Remarks, the Honourable Minister stated that *"I personally view that the organisation of this Policy Dialogue at this stage is crucial for the future development of the manufacturing sector. There is no time for complacency as we need to reassess the current context in which the manufacturing sector is evolving in a bid to come up with a transformed business ecosystem for a new impetus and greater resilience of our manufacturing enterprises"*.



On the first day of the National Policy Dialogue, speakers were apprised about the latest developments with regards to the Implementation of the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) as well as schemes provided by the Economic Development Board, SME Mauritius Ltd, Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Ltd and Human Resource Development Council targeted to manufacturing enterprises.

In addition, participants were acquainted with the opportunities that could be leveraged under the various free trade agreements that Mauritius signed with other countries, including the African Continental Free Trade Area. Moreover, public and private sector representatives provided their insights on the future development of the sector through an interactive brainstorming session.



With regards to the second day of the event, Professor Justin Barnes, International Consultant for the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) (IPSP) intervened virtually to share his perspectives on the Textile and Clothing sector. This was followed by presentations focusing on:

- Positioning Mauritius as a Strategic Hub for Textile and Apparel;
- Stimulating Creativity, Fashion and Design;
- The Textile and Apparel Factory of the Future; and
- Fostering Automation, Robotics and IIOT in the Manufacturing Sector: A Skills Perspective.

Eventually, the event culminated with a High-Level Situational Analysis on the Textile and Clothing sector where deliberations revolved around new challenges being faced by the sector and novel strategies to be adopted for its future growth. The recommendations which emanated from the Policy Dialogue provided the basis for the formulation of relevant budgetary proposals.



Press Conferences/Site Visits/Meetings

Honourable S. Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) is in close contact with industry operators to take cognisance of the challenges they are facing and to provide targeted support to ensure the proper running of their operations. In this context, site visits and meetings are effected with major business captains on a regular basis. The Honourable Minister also holds press conferences on a quarterly basis to share information on the performance of the EOE sector and to be apprised of latest developments pertaining to the sector by apex private sector organisations.

Press Conferences on Export Performance



November 2021



February 2022



May 2022

Site Visits



Arema Ltd (September 2021)



Arema Ltd (September 2021)



Filao Ltd (November 2021)



Filao Ltd (November 2021)



Comfort Zone Ltd (March 2022)



Comfort Zone Ltd (March 2022)



Stettler Ltd (April 2022)



Lilmo Ltd (April 2022)

Site Visits



CMT Spinning Mills Ltd (May 2022)



CMT Spinning Mills Ltd (May 2022)



Firemount Textiles Ltd (May 2022)



Firemount Textiles Ltd (May 2022)

Meetings with Industry Operators



Tianli Spinning Mills Ltd (April 2022)



Societe Mauricienne De Saphire Ltd (April 2022)



Princes Tuna Mauritius Ltd (April 2022)



Froid des Mascareignes Ltd – April 2022

Meetings with Industry Operators



Maxiwear Ltd (May 2022)



Courtesy Call: Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd

Participation in Virtual Events

Twenty-Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) for Southern Africa (13-14 October 2021)



ICSOE 2021

Twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for Southern Africa

Building back better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa: fostering commodity-based industrialization, manufacturing and regional value chains

13 and 14 October 2021

The 27th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) for Southern Africa was organised in a hybrid format on 13th and 14th October

2021 under the theme: *“Building Back Better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa: Fostering Commodity-based Industrialization, Manufacturing and Regional Value-chains”*. Delegates from the eleven member States of ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa, namely Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the meeting. It is worth mentioning that the ICSOE is an integral part of ECA’s governance machinery and meets annually to consider, provide guidance and endorse the overall formulation and implementation of the Sub Regional Office programme of work in line with the regional priorities.

The Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division, Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed, was delegated to be the Head of Delegation from the Mauritian Side. She also participated in a High-Level Panel Discussion themed *“Building Back Better from COVID-19 in Southern Africa: Fostering Commodity-based Industrialisation, Manufacturing and Regional Value-chains”* wherein she provided insights on the experience of the manufacturing sector of Mauritius in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. It is to be noted that that the ICSOE elected Malawi as Chairperson of its Bureau, Mozambique as Vice Chairperson and Zimbabwe as Rapporteur.



From Left to Right: Ms. T. Bekarma (Industrial Analyst), Ms. H. Seeboruth (Senior Industrial Analyst), Mr. P. S. Seeboo (Assistant Permanent Secretary), Mrs. B. F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed (Permanent Secretary), Mr. J. D. P. Labonne (Deputy Permanent Secretary), Mrs. Z. Mandarun (Senior Industrial Analyst), Mrs. H. Hurchund (Assistant System Analyst), Mrs. V. Jaypaul (Industrial Analyst)

Revival of Industrial Policy – Prospects for Establishing a Global Industrial Forum for Multilateral Policy Learning and Knowledge Sharing (2 December 2021)

The Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division, Mrs. B.F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed, was a Panellist in a Virtual Side event organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in the margin of the nineteenth session of its General Conference. The objective was to discuss on the establishment of a Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) at the level of the UNIDO. The MIPF is expected to serve as a common platform to share ideas and facilitate the identification of common industrial development priorities among Member States, as well as identifying areas of collaboration while enabling the design and implementation of more effective industrial policies. Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, UNIDO's Deputy to the Director General, emphasised in his intervention that the MIPF will be a step towards meeting the increasing demand for the effective use of industrial policies to foster inclusive and sustainable industrial development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Participation in this virtual side event provided an opportunity for the Ministry to share its experience and best practices in the formulation of the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) for Mauritius.



From Left to Right: Dr. R. Domun (Principal Industrial Analyst), Mrs. Z. Mandarun (Senior Industrial Analyst), Mr P. S. Seeboo (Assistant Permanent Secretary), Mrs B. F. Abdool Raman-Ahmed (Permanent Secretary), Mr. J. D. P. Labonne (Deputy Permanent Secretary), Mrs H. Hurchund (Assistant System Analyst), Mr. B. Seedoyal (Senior Industrial Analyst)

Virtual Exhibition of “Made in Mauritius” products on World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai’s Online Platform (3 March 2022)

On 3 March 2022, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives delivered a Keynote Address during the Launching Ceremony of the Virtual Exhibition of “Made in Mauritius” products and services on the World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai’s Online Platform. The objective of this bilateral exhibition was to enhance trade opportunities between India and Mauritius, particularly in the context of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The Economic Development Board in collaboration with the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry enlisted the participation of Mauritian companies in this online exhibition.



ABOUT WTC MUMBAI

Established in 1970, WTC is an important trade promoting and supporting organisation. It is an integral part of the global network of 315 WTCs in 92 countries connecting over 1 million businesses. The aim of this platform is to provide digital interaction with buyers and visitors with exhibitors. The platform can be accessed on www.wetrade.org to showcase products and services, for companies considering India as a potential market and seeking collaboration with Indian companies.

Webinar on Public Sector Capacity Building for Innovation and Industrialisation in Developing Countries” (22 March 2022)

The UNIDO, in collaboration with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPi) and the Government of the Republic of Korea, organised an online event on the contribution of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), with emphasis on SDG 9 (*Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*). The event presented the recent experiences of a selected number of East Asian countries and Mauritius to illustrate strategies to address gaps in technological capability accumulation and strengthen policy capacities for innovation and industrialisation. A report entitled “*The Role of science, technology, and innovation policies in the industrialisation of developing countries: Lessons from East Asian Countries*”; was launched during the event. It is to be noted that the Report includes case studies of East Asian countries that have leveraged on STI and industrial policies to achieve rapid industrialisation.



The Permanent Secretary of the Industrial Development Division, Mrs. B.F Abdool Raman-Ahmed was a panelist in this event whereby she shared insights on the required policy capacities to implement STI and industrial policies in a post-pandemic world, by illustrating the Mauritian case.



Status on Implementation of Budgetary Measures 2021/2022 in relation to the Manufacturing Sector

Paragraph	Budgetary Measures	Status
67	Setting up of a Rs 5 billion Modernisation and Transformation Fund (MTF) , which will be managed by a new Industrial Financial Institution (IFI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius (IFCM) Ltd became operational in February 2022, taking over the activities of the ex-ISP Ltd and SME Equity Fund.
68	The IFI will take over the activities of the ISP Ltd and SME Equity Fund and cater for industries in manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries.	<p>New support schemes now available for the manufacturing and other sectors are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTF Leasing for upgrading of technology & modernisation of production equipment and business processes;
70	Projects eligible under the Modernisation and Transformation Fund will benefit from leasing facilities at a preferential rate of 2.5 percent per annum over an extended period of up to 9 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTF Factoring to provide cash-flow to companies by factoring their credit sales invoices; MTF Equity Financing to provide equity/quasi-equity financing, debenture subscription and other debt financing solutions.
71	Reduction of the annual interest rate for the existing Leasing Equipment Modernisation Scheme (LEMS) as follows: LEMS I, from 3.9% to 2.9% for companies with turnover up to Rs 50 million; LEMS II, from 4.25% to 3.25% for companies with turnover between Rs 50 million and Rs 250 million; and LEMS III, from 4.75% to 3.75% for companies with turnover above Rs 250 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already operational
75	Deduction of 200% from taxable income on the acquisition of specialised software and systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already operational with the enactment of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.
83	Streamlining of some sixteen different incentives schemes under three certificates issued by the EDB, namely; a.) Investment Certificate; b.) Export Development Certificate; and c.) Premium Investor Certificate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already implemented by EDB.
84	The Premium Investor Certificate to allow companies investing at least Rs 500 million (except for pharmaceutical) benefit from negotiable incentives, upon recommendation of a Technical Committee and approval by the Minister.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already implemented by EDB.

Status on Implementation of Budgetary Measures 2021/2022 in relation to the Manufacturing Sector

Paragraph	Budgetary Measures	Status
85	<p>In order to benefit from incentives and schemes provided by the Government, businesses will have to be registered by the EDB. In this context, EDB will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set up a Business Support Facility that will provide facilitation and advisory services to all businesses in Mauritius; • dedicate an Accounts Manager to all registered businesses; and • implement an information sharing platform with the MRA and CBRD to facilitate exchange of information between these institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business Support cell is already operational since 21 June 2021. • Account managers across all sectors are already allocated. • A dedicated website for BSF is already operational.
86	<p>EDB will set up commissions on the following with a view to keep abreast of all business and economic developments, issues and opportunities:</p> <p>(a) Trade and Business Facilitation. (b) Export Development. (c) Investment. (d) Sectoral Development. (e) Financial Services.</p>	<p>Four Commissions have been set up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export Development (Goods); • Export Development (Services); • Competitiveness, Productivity and Capacity Building; and • Sectoral Development.
176 & 177	<p>Encourage private companies to construct purpose-built factories for manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and medical devices as well as for clinical and pre-clinical trials.</p> <p>Exemption on the following items will be provided to developers, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Duty and land transfer tax; • Land conversion tax; and • VAT on construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already operational with the enactment of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.
178	<p>All companies engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and medical devices will be eligible to a premium investor certificate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate is being issued by EDB.
179	<p>Full tax credit on the costs of acquisition of patents provided to biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already operational with the enactment of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.

Status on Implementation of Budgetary Measures 2021/2022 in relation to the Manufacturing Sector

Paragraph	Budgetary Measures	Status
180	Companies engaged in the medical, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector will be taxed at 3% instead of 15%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already operational with the enactment of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.
181	Government will provide a seed capital of Rs 1 billion to the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology for the setting up of a manufacturing plant for the local production of COVID-19 vaccines and other pharmaceutical products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 28 October 2021, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development incorporated the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIB) Ltd to drive this project. The company is fully owned by Government of Mauritius. Prior to setting up of the MIB Ltd, an Expression of Interest seeking proposals from potential investors for establishment of the pharmaceutical manufacturing plant was launched by EDB. Proposals obtained are being considered at the level of EDB.
216	Introduction of an Export Development Programme by EDB to improve export readiness of enterprises to tap into the potential under the new trade agreements (e.g. CECPA with India, the China FTA, the UK-ESA Agreement and the African Continental FTA.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB is already carrying out market research activities and intelligence gathering in Africa and India. A promotional event was also undertaken by EDB in South Africa from 7th to 14th April 2022, targeting Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.
217	Other schemes to maintain export competitiveness are as follows: - (a) Extension of the Freight Rebate Scheme until June 2022; (b) Increasing the maximum refund from 0.2% to 0.5% under the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme up to June 2022; (c) Extension of the 50% reduction in port dues and terminal handling charges for export for 2 more years; (d) Reduction of 75% in anchorage dues for the first 24 hours and 50% reduction for the next 48 hours for vessels calling at outer anchorage solely for bunkering services; (e) Reduction on the cap on Gross Tonnage for computing vessel fees calling at anchorage from 100,000 tons to 35,000 tons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already operational.
220 (a)	Third party freeport developers will be authorised to rent space to an enterprise outside the Freeport zone for manufacturing and storage of goods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already operational.
221	Increase from 10 % to 40 % in the minimum shelf space requirement for locally manufactured products within a period of one year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection in collaboration with MCCI and AMM have set up a Joint Technical Committee to discuss on the modalities to implement this budgetary measure. The first meeting was convened on 17 January 2022. A voluntary charter which provides guiding principles and best practices on how to promote products manufactured by the local industry will be finalised by end of July 2022. The recommendations of the Technical Committee are being awaited.

Status on Implementation of Budgetary Measures 2021/2022 in relation to the Manufacturing Sector

Paragraph	Budgetary Measures	Status
224	Promoting the procurement of goods manufactured locally by: (a) Increasing the bid price preference of 20% to 30% for products such as tea, fruit juices, margarine and medical gas produced locally; and (b) Adopting a Mauritius First policy for the procurement of sanitisers, masks, PPEs, medical devices and medical gas, amongst others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already operational. • Directive 58 by PPO has already been issued on 20 September 2021.
Explanatory Notes A.1.(e)	Double Tax Deduction on expenditure incurred on market research and product development targeting African market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already operational with the enactment of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021.

Status on Implementation of Government Programme 2020-2024

Measures	Status
Formulation of a strategic plan for the manufacturing sector focusing on innovation-led, technology-intensive and import substitution activities while fostering export competitiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (IPSP) (2020-2025) was completed with the assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). • The IPSP was launched by the Honourable Minister in December 2020 and implementation of the recommendations is currently underway.

Status on Implementation of Key Actions in relation to the Manufacturing Sector

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key performance Indicator	Target 2021/22	Actual as at 30 June 2022	Status
Industrial Development Division	Facilitate the development of the manufacturing sector	Percentage increase in domestic exports (excluding sugar)	>8%	7.5%	The percentage increase in value of domestic exports over the period July 2021 – June 2022, compared to the corresponding period July 2020 – June 2021, is attributed to the satisfactory performance of the export sub-sectors, namely; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textile and Clothing; • Fish and fish preparations; • Jewellery and Precious Stones; and • Medical Devices.
Mauritius Standards Bureau	Development of standards and provision of conformity assessment services	Number of standards developed	55	52	Due to the pandemic situation in Mauritius less physical meetings were held which has impacted the standardisation programme of work. The shortfall in the number of standards published was due to administrative delays which have impacted on the publication of the standards within the period under review.
Fashion & Design Institute	Provision of training in the field of fashion and design technology	Number of courses introduced (cumulative)	8	15	New courses which were introduced were in fields such as Creative Fashion, Textiles Design & Entrepreneurship, Jewellery Manufacturing, Photo media & Advertising Design, amongst others.
National Productivity & Competitiveness Council	Promote productivity, quality and competitiveness	Number of productivity programmes carried out	75	87	Additional productivity programmes which were conducted relate mainly to COSHARE (Covid-19 OSH & Resource Efficiency) in the Tourism Sector.

Risk Management, Citizen Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

The Industrial Development Division has put in place a number of measures for the safeguard of its assets, operation of the control processes and compliance with the principles of good governance.

Risk Management



Industrial Development Division

The Division ensures that control processes for the safeguard of assets are maintained. To that effect, the Government Asset Register and the inventory records are regularly updated. Trade data, sourced from various sources, which is of confidential nature is accessed only through passwords. Backup of the data is effected on a monthly basis by the Business Information Unit (BIU). Computer administrator permissions are required to install software programmes on existing computers. Standard users cannot install third party software. Only officers of the BIU have access to the administrator account.



MAURITAS

A risk management process has been developed to manage risks related to impartiality, including any conflicts of interest with respect to accreditation of laboratories and certification bodies. Potential risks related to corruption have also been identified. All the risks are recorded in a Risk Register which are reviewed and updated every year.



Assay Office

Risk identification forms an integral part of the activities of the Assay Office. One risk which has been identified relates to inspection visit whereby officers have to disclose conflict of interests in case they are related to any jeweller.

Anti-Corruption Framework

The Ministry has set up an Anti-Corruption Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary, which met on three occasions during Financial Year 2021-2022. In line with Circular letter dated 03 September 2021 from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms (MPSAIR), the Ministry has identified two Corruption Risk Areas and implemented the recommendations made during the two Corruption Risk Assessments in relation to good governance. The implementation of the recommendations was closely monitored by the representative of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Citizen Oriented Initiatives

Industrial Development Division

The Customer Charter of the Industrial Development Division ensures the provision of timely, efficient and quality public service.

MAURITAS

- A management system based on the requirements of an international standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017 is operational to monitor and coordinate the delivery of accreditation services.
- The website of MAURITAS is regularly updated.
- MAURITAS is continuing with its annual feedback surveys among its client's base, as well as internal meetings, to evaluate its service delivery and the targeted set of Key Performance Indicators.

Assay Office

- With a view to facilitating interaction with its customers, the Assay Office has, since 24 February 2022, enhanced its services through the introduction of messaging platforms, namely, SMS and WhatsApp notifications, which may be reached on **55099575**.
- A customer who has requested any services provided by the Assay Office, will receive a SMS notification upon completion of the service.
- Any person may interact with the Assay Office through WhatsApp. The Assay Office has received several requests through WhatsApp with respect to the different services provided and provisions of the Jewellery Act, which have been duly attended.

Good Governance

The Audit Committee at the Ministry is chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary and it follows up on the recommendations made by the National Audit Office and the report of the Internal Controller.

During Financial Year 2021-2022, the Audit Committee held seven meetings and effectively addressed issues raised through the audit exercises.

Implementation Plan - Director of Audit Comments

There has been no adverse comment on the Industrial Development Division in the last report of the Director of Audit.



PART 3

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Budget allocation under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102 for financial year 2021-2022 pertaining to the Industrial Development Division was **Rs. 240,800,000**, out of which expenses totalling **Rs. 229,453,268** have been incurred, leaving an unspent balance of **4.71%** of the total appropriation which represents mainly the non-filling of vacancies.

Statement of Expenditure & Revenue

Statement of Expenditure

The tables below show details of expenditure incurred under Sub-Head 10-102.

Sub-Head 10-102: Industrial Development

Table 1: Comparison of Expenditure under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102

Categories	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Actual (Rs.)	Estimates (Rs.)	Actual (Rs.)
Compensation of Employees	53,297,849	63,240,000	64,207,712
Goods and Services	21,533,642	22,730,000	21,822,833
Grants – Recurrent	112,400,918	126,830,000	129,089,293
Grants – Capital	41,495,647	27,000,000	13,333,430
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	5,737,197	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL	234,465,254	240,800,000	229,453,268

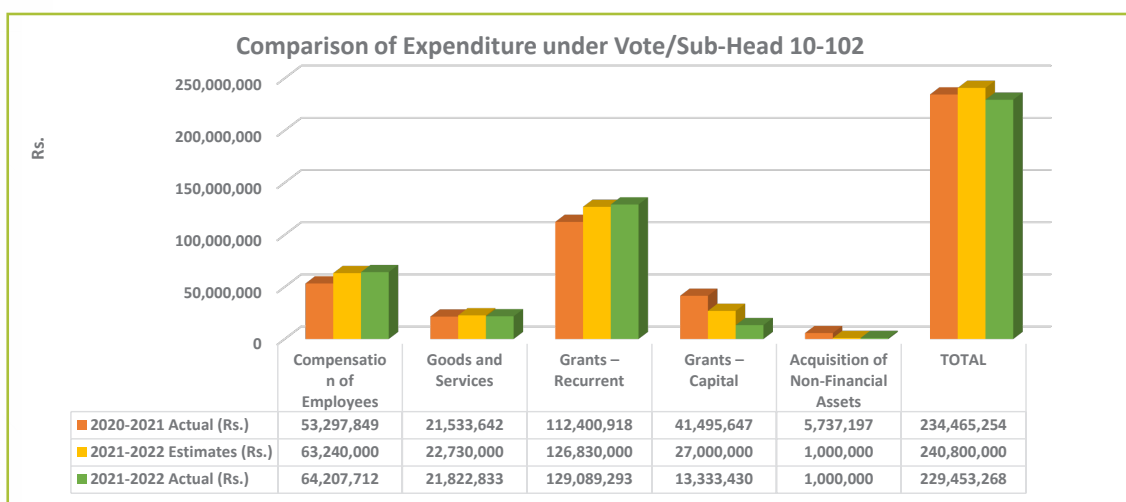


Figure 1: Comparison of Expenditure under Vote/Sub Head 10-102

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As a percentage of total expenditure incurred, each economic category is represented as follows:

Table 2: Percentage of total expenditure under Vote/Sub Head 11-102

	Compensation of Employees	Goods and Services	Grants - Recurrent	Grants - Capital	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets
%	28	9.5	56.2	5.8	0.5

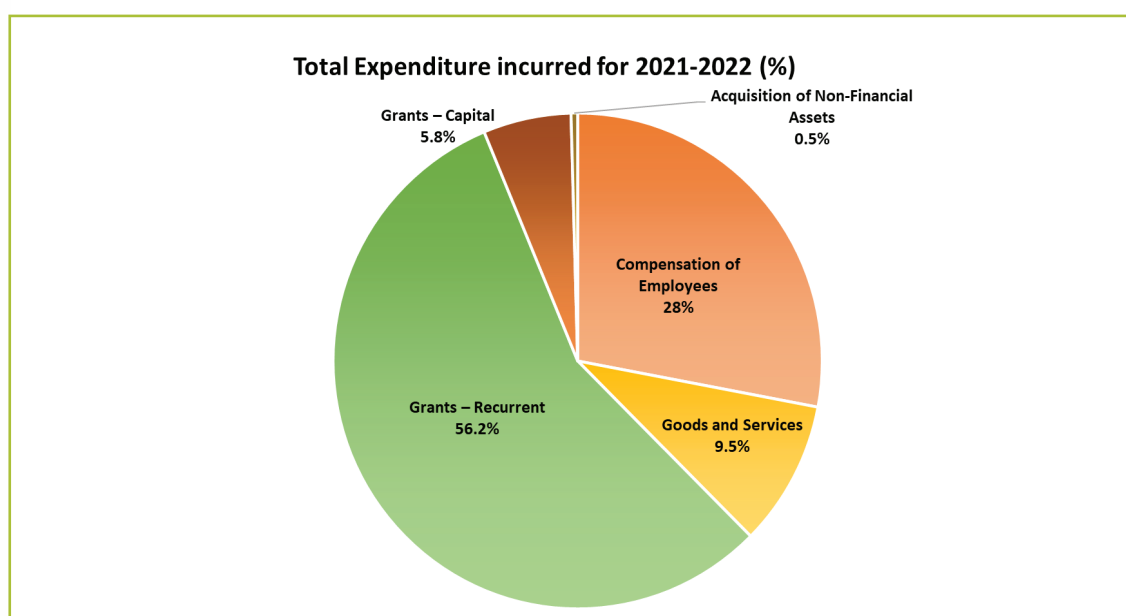


Figure 2: Total Expenditure incurred for 2021-2022 (%)



Grants - Recurrent”, represents Contribution to International Organisations and funds allocated to our three Extra-Budgetary Units, namely the Fashion and Design Institute (FDI), the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) and National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC).



Statement of Revenue

Table 3: Statement of Revenue

Revenue Categories	2020-2021 Actual (Rs.)	2021-2022 Estimates (Rs.)	2021-2022 Actual (Rs.)
Sales of Goods and Services (Collection by Assay Office)	3,956,173	2,500,000	2,267,883
Miscellaneous Revenues (Collection by MAURITAS)	3,030,870	3,375,000	2,656,500
TOTAL	6,987,043	5,875,000	4,924,383

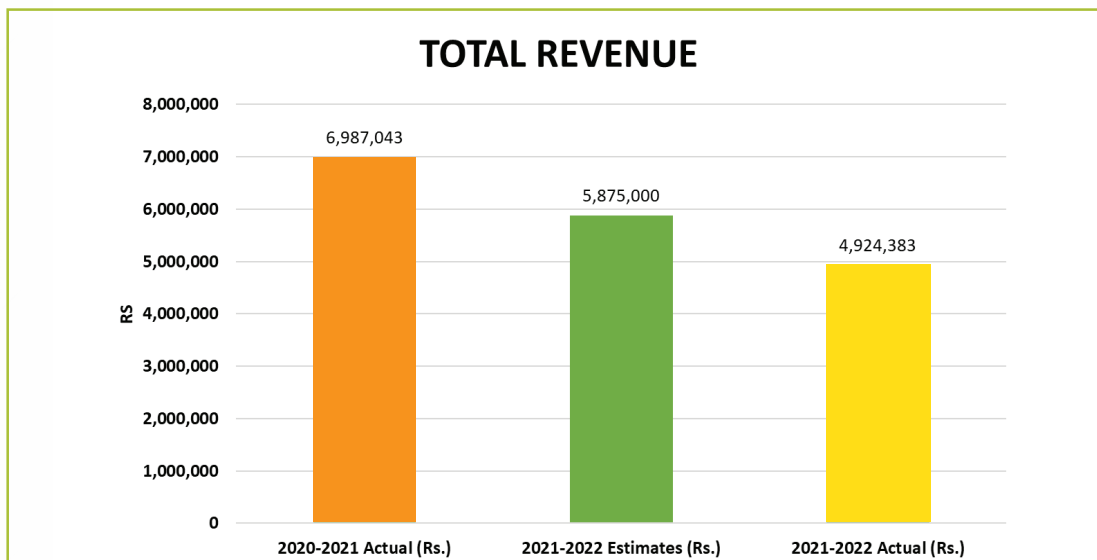


Figure 3: Total Revenue

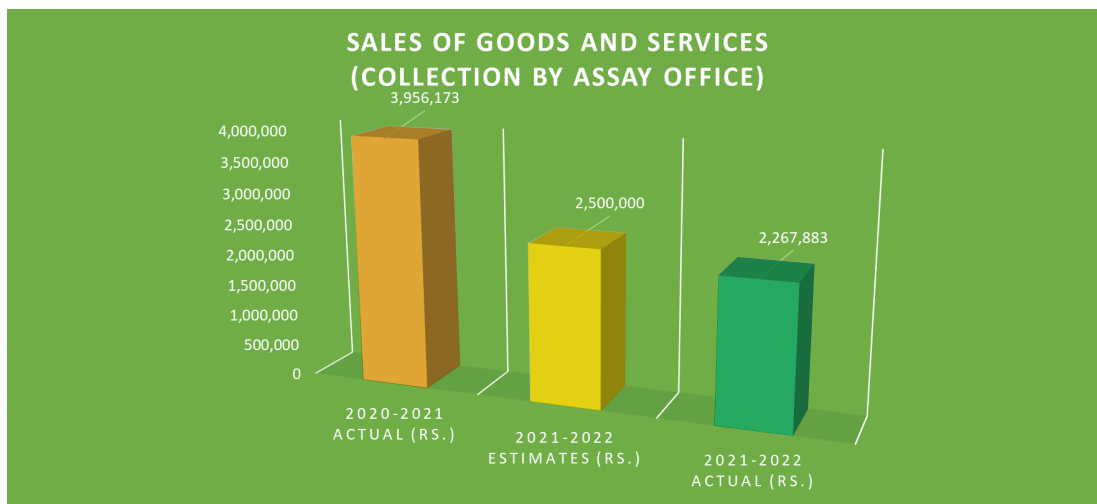


Figure 4: Revenue Collected by Assay Office

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

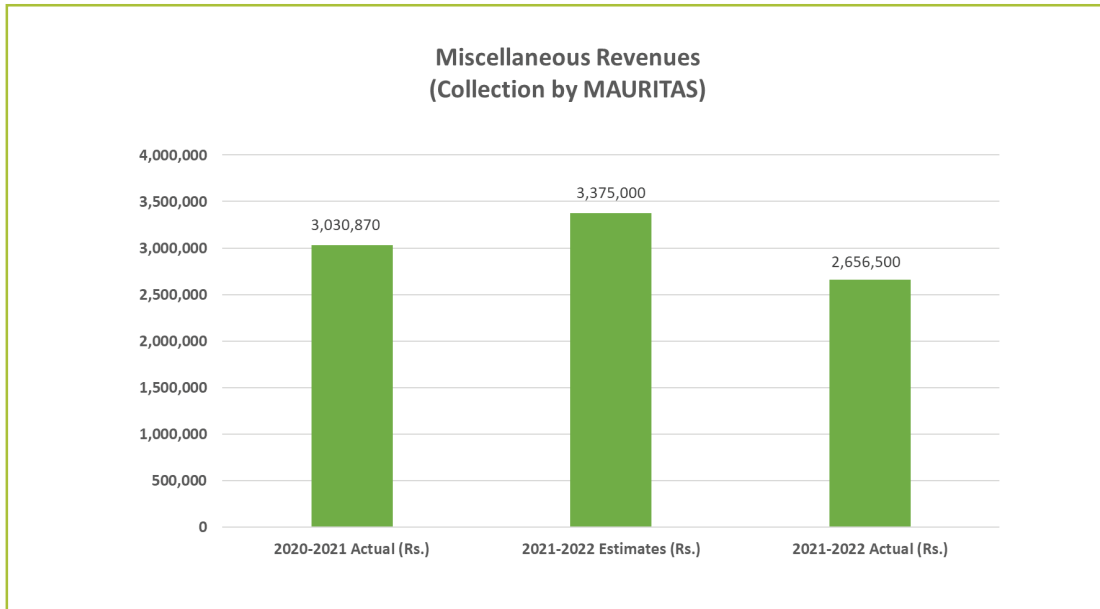


Figure 5: Revenue Collected by MAURITAS

The main assumption made for the revenue estimates 2021-2022 by **ASSAY OFFICE** was based on:

- Renewal of Registration of dealer in jewellery is effected once every 3 years. The last renewal exercise was carried out in the fiscal year 2020-2021. The next exercise would be undertaken in the fiscal year 2023-2024.

The main assumptions made for the revenue estimates 2021-2022 by **MAURITAS** were based on:

- An increase in the number of accredited bodies following the signatory status of MAURITAS with ILAC & IAF in October 2018; and
- No increase in the fees and charges.



PART 4

WAY FORWARD



TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The Mauritian manufacturing sector has for a second consecutive year emerged with flying colours. It rose successfully from the trough of negative growth rate during the pandemic year to post a positive performance last year despite the ramifications of the Covid-19 crisis. The sector is poised to face new obstacles with the new developments on the international front.

- The global economy enjoyed a recovery of 6.1% in 2021 with a turnaround in our all major trading partners. However, since the beginning of 2022 the shadow of the war in Ukraine, which is considered as a tragic humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe, is lurking on the global economy as well as on our manufacturing sector.
- As per the IMF, new challenges have emerged on the international arena in the garb of geopolitical tensions, global supply chain disruptions, high inflation rates and volatility in energy and food prices. These challenges will further exacerbate the pressure on world economies which have already embarked on a recovery path.
- The success of the Mauritian economy hinges on the outstanding stewardship of lives through efficient delivery of health services and protection of livelihoods through generous package of incentives. The manufacturing sector which continues to be a vital pillar of the economy has been able to display its usual sense of resilience. Both the Government and operators have assumed their responsibilities to place the sector back on track with major sub sectors registering outstanding export performance.
- An important enabler in this remarkable performance of the manufacturing sector is the policy of close proximity with the business community adopted by the Honourable Minister through meetings with stakeholders and site visits to enterprises. This exercise has enabled the Ministry to gauge the difficulties of enterprises and identify the appropriate support measures for the smooth running of their operations.
- During the past year, the Ministry has successfully organised several workshops related to skills development, future policy orientations and rebranding of the manufacturing sector as well as sustainable industrial development. Furthermore, the implementation of recommendations of the Industrial Policy and Strategy Plan (2020-2025) is well underway. In addition, a groundbreaking contribution of the Ministry has been of the setting up of the Modernisation and Transformation Fund managed by the Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Ltd, which will prove to be a game changer in access to finance for the business community.
- The policy of the Ministry is presently oriented towards addressing industrial fundamentals such as skills, connectivity and industrial infrastructure; upgrading of value chains; enhancing local production; boosting regional and global exports; and more importantly the adoption of technologies related to Industry 4.0. This well-defined industrial development pathway has been praised by international organisations such as UNCTAD, UNECA and UNIDO.

SWOT ANALYSIS

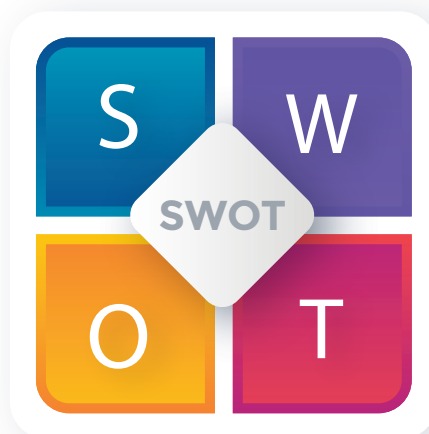
STRENGTHS

- Conducive business environment
- Dynamic entrepreneurship
- Strong public/private sector dialogue
- Positive economic and social indices
- Versatile labour force



WEAKNESSES

- Exiguous domestic market
- Slow gains in productivity
- Deficiency in technology uptake
- Overdependence on a few export markets
- Skills mismatch and shortage of labour
- Lack of R & D for commercial applications



OPPORTUNITIES

- Favourable trade agreements with Europe (IEPA) and the USA (AGOA)
- Preferential access to the African market through SADC, COMESA and AfCFTA.
- Access to emerging markets through conclusion of new trade agreements such as CECPA with India and FTA with China.
- Leveraging on Industry 4.0 to upgrade to smart manufacturing

THREATS

- Geopolitical tensions
- Rising cost of production
- Erratic shipping frequencies
- High freight costs
- Global supply chain disruptions
- Soaring oil and commodity prices
- Stiff competition from low cost producers

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In order to propel the manufacturing sector to new heights, the following strategies are being implemented:

Strategic Direction	Enabler (s)
Support viable enterprises to prevent closure and avoid job losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Special Relief Programmes and Schemes including loans at concessionary rates to support enterprises
Promote import substitution strategies by encouraging local production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate level-playing field for imports and exports with regard to norms and standards to ensure that there is domestic market conformance Promote the culture of buying Mauritian products through sensitisation campaigns
Upgrade and modernise the manufacturing base for higher value-added products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage enterprises to re-engineer and re-orient their business models focusing on green and Industry 4.0 technologies through support from the Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Ltd
Boost the export manufacturing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct market surveys to identify products having export potential and intensify export promotion campaigns in traditional and emerging markets Exploit regional and global market opportunities by leveraging on Free Trade Agreements and Preferential Trade Agreements Upgrade quality of products by moving to higher value-added supply chains



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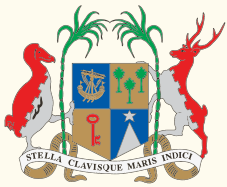
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