

## **Human Rights Council Resolution 19/20 – Role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights**

### **Questions 1 and 2 on the dissemination of good practices and activities in the Civil Service**

- An Action Plan on Human Rights has been finalized and it seeks to adjust the Government policies and programmes in order to create an appropriate human rights climate conducive for economic, social and cultural development in the country.
- A Human Rights Portal is being developed in collaboration with the National Computer Board in order to have a common platform for Government officials, NHRIs, Human Rights NGOs, students and citizens to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan. The contents of the portal will be as follows:
  - Online human rights Resource and Documentation Centre.
  - Human Rights training and sensitisation for students and citizens.
  - Link to all National Human Rights Institutions in Mauritius including NHRC, Equal Opportunities Commission and Ombudsperson for Children.
  - Intranet for all stakeholders from Ministries, Departments and organizations forming part of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee.
  - Forum for communication among Human Rights Clubs which will be created in Youth Centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB).
  - Link to OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights) website which contains status of all reports presented by Mauritius and recommendations by UN Treaty Bodies and all treaties and Conventions signed by Mauritius.

- The database of human rights structural, process and outcome indicators will also be used as a support to the Human Rights Monitoring Committee set up to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan.
  
- We are partnering with the Commonwealth Secretariat in order to integrate human rights within the curriculum at secondary education level. A Consultant has already submitted his report following consultations held with Mauritius Institute of Education and Ministry of Education and we will now have to chart the way forward. Heads of secondary schools were sensitized on the project and once the project is implemented, the training of teachers will start.
  
- The following training and sensitization programmes on human rights have been organized for civil servants by this Office in collaboration with other Ministries/Departments/organizations:
  - (i) 60 CAB Organisers of the National Development Unit and around 500 citizens were trained/sensitised for 2 days in CAB Offices over the period August/September 2011. This was organized in collaboration with NDU, NHRC, Attorney General's Office and Amnesty International
  - (ii) 25 Heads of Ministries/Departments participated in a Human Rights Leadership Seminar in February 2012 organised by PMO in collaboration with Commonwealth Secretariat
  - (iii) 55 Youth Officers were trained over 2 days by representatives/Members of NHRC, Attorney-General's Office and Equal Opportunities Commission
  
- The provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act have been included in the curriculum of training of all newly recruited police officers. Moreover, with a view to inculcate in police officers issues pertaining to human rights, lectures are often delivered by representatives of the National Human Rights Commission to senior police officers who, in turn, impart same to junior officers. New recruits, Sergeants and Inspectors are additionally examined on Human Rights issues during the end-of-course assessments.

- Amongst others, the following subjects pertaining to human rights issues are taught at the Police Training School:
  - The Constitution of Mauritius
  - The Protection of Human Rights Act 1998
  - Ethical and Legal Police Conduct
  - Policing in Democracies
  - Police and non-discrimination
  - Arrest and Detention
  - Use of Force and Firearms
  - Police and the Protection of Juveniles
- Moreover, the curriculum of the Certificate/Diploma/BSc (Hons) Degree Course in Police Studies taught at the University of Mauritius comprises a module on Human Rights and another one on International Humanitarian Law.
- Training on Human Rights issues was dispensed to more than prisons officers and to new recruits in the Prisons Department.. In 2007, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted the Prisons Department by providing two consultants to carry out an assessment and a revision of the Prisons Officers' Training Curriculum. Human rights concepts and practices are to be mainstreamed through a revision of the curriculum. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also supported the Prisons Department in the Training of Trainers' course in Human Rights for 20 senior officers.
- The Mauritius Police Force has on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 launched the National Policing Strategic Framework (NPSF) with the collaboration of the UNDP/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This strategic plan relies on six main pillars. One among the main pillars is dedicated to "Achieving a Human Rights Compliant Organisation".

### **Question 3- Stakeholders in the public sector**

The human rights portfolio falls under the Prime Minister's Office and we ensure coordination with the following Ministries/Departments/organizations in view of the human rights dimension in their roles and responsibilities:

- Equal Opportunities Commission
- National Human Rights Commission
- Ombudsman
- Ombudsperson for Children
- Police Department
- Prisons Department
- Ministry of Education and Human Resources
- Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
- Ministry of Social Security (for disabilities and older persons)
- Ministry of Labour
- Attorney-General's Office
- Ministry of Gender Equality

### **Questions 4 to 6**

None

### **Question 7**

Recruitment, appointment and promotion in the civil service are made by the Public Service Commission as laid out in the Constitution. Any officer who feels aggrieved may appeal to the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal. Copies of relevant extracts are enclosed. Cases of discrimination are dealt with by the Equal Opportunities Commission.