**Primary laws**

The main legislations which govern local government in Mauritius are as follows:

1. The Local Government Act 2011
2. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016
3. The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service Act 2013
4. Mauritius Meteorological Act 2018
5. The Building Control Act and its regulations

**The Ministry**

**The Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management** is responsible for the formulation of appropriate policies and strategies and the establishment of necessary legal framework to ensure that entities under its purview operate smoothly to contribute effectively towards achieving national objectives in respect of:

* + Local government matters in Mauritius;
	+ Disaster Risk Reduction and Management;
	+ Enforcement of conveyance of municipal solid waste;
	+ Cleaning, landscaping and embellishment of public places;
	+ Fire prevention and fighting as well as rescue service; and
	+ Meteorological services.

The Ministry administers the Local Government Act 2011 and makes such regulations for the smooth implementation thereof and provides general policy guidance to Local Authorities.

The following organisations/units fall under the purview of the Ministry:

* the Local Authorities;
* the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre;
* the Field Services Unit;
* the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service.

**The Local Authorities** comprise one Municipal City Council, four Municipal Councils, seven District Councils and 130 Village Councils. These Local Authorities aim at providing services and carry out infrastructural developments at local level.

According to Section 49 of the Local Government Act the purpose of a Local Authority is to: -

1. promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the local community;
2. improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community;
3. ensure that services and facilities provided by the Council are accessible and equitably distributed;
4. ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively o best meet the needs of the local community;
5. ensure transparency and accountability in decision –making; and
6. provide for the prudent use and stewardship of local community resources.

Local Authorities are responsible for infrastructural development and control mechanisms to mitigate impacts of climate change in the communities. They include the construction, maintenance and cleaning of drains of all roads other than motorways and main roads, the collection and conveyance of waste to waste disposal or management facilities, and terracing works along public roads, the construction, control, care, management, maintenance, improvement and cleaning of the beds and banks of lakes, rivers, and streams, and the control of pollution.

Local authorities are required to uphold principles of non-discrimination and equality in their policies and practices. They must provide services and facilities in a fair and equitable manner, without discrimination based on factors such as race, religion, gender, or socio-economic status. By ensuring non-discrimination, local authorities contribute to the protection of fundamental human rights, including the right to equality and non-discrimination.

The municipal tax has recently been abolished on the family home for some 110,000 families

The election of Councillors to Municipal and Village Council is a democratic process whereby the citizens can vote for their preferred candidates, thus ensuring the right to participation in public affairs. In accordance with the Local Government Act and the Constitution of Mauritius, the representation of women during elections should be at least one third.

Municipal and district councils are responsible for the administration, management and maintenance of market, children’s playground and kindergardens. They are also responsible for the issuance of building and land use permits