**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**Materials for the Report of United Nations Secretary –
General on the Human Rights of migrants
(Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 76/172, para. 22)**

1.0 Mauritius recognises that migrants regardless of their legal status are entitled to fundamental human rights and protection.

Migrants come to Mauritius mainly for employment opportunities and prospects in various sectors of the economy.

 As a member state of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the State of Mauritius ensures that measures are taken to adhere to ILO principles and to the various ILO Conventions to which it is a party.

1.2 **Legislation**

The following legislations provide for enhanced protection of workers, including migrant and foreign workers: -

(a) Workers’ Rights Act 2019;

(b) Employment Relations Act 2008;

(c) Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005;

(d) Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Act 1970;

(e) Workmen’s Compensation Act 1931;

(f) National Minimum Wage Regulations; and

(g) Occupational Safety and Health (Employees’ Lodging Accommodation) Regulations 2011, GN 27 of 2011.

2.0 **Recruitment of migrant workers**

Recruiting agencies authorised to recruit migrants to work in Mauritius are accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training (MLHRDT) to ensure the protection of migrant workers. Companies employing migrant workers have to abide to stringent conditions to safeguard the rights of migrant workers prior to be allowed to employ them.

Only migrant workers in possession of a duly issued work permit or occupation permit from the Authorities are allowed to work in Mauritius.

The Occupational, Safety and Health Division is responsible, for the issue of Lodging and Accommodation Permit with respect to dormitories of migrant workers in line with health and safety provisions.

Every worker including migrant workers, is guaranteed a National Minimum Wage.

Migrant workers who hold a work or occupation permit have access to public hospitals which provide free health services.

4.0 The Inspection and Enforcement Section and Special Migrant Workers Unit

The IES currently has 17 regional labour offices across the island in addition to the Special Migrant Workers Unit (SMWU) based at Headquarters. They operate under the aegis of the MLHRDT, for carrying out inspections at workplaces to enforce and ensure compliance with provisions of the labour legislation as well as to detect and sanction cases of non- compliance with the provisions of the labour legislation.

The Special Migrant Workers Unit vets the contract of employment of migrant workers prior to their arrival or renewal of their contracts employment.

The SMWU also has a complaint desk for migrant workers. The SMWU intervenes in respect of registered complaints regarding non-payment and underpayment of wages.

5.0 **Sensitisation campaigns**

To inform migrant workers of their rights, the possible remedial actions to be taken in case of violations and also to sensitise them about the dangers of human trafficking, a “Know Your Rights” Pamphlet was produced and published in collaboration with the British High Commission in six different languages, namely English, French, Hindi, Tamil, Bangla and Mandarin in 2019.

The pamphlets were distributed to the entities employing migrant workers through the MLHRDT. The Passport and Immigration Office, trade union organisations as well as respective Embassies and Consulates based in Mauritius were provided copies of the pamphlets

7.0 **Citizen Support Unit (CSU)**

The Citizen Support Unit (CSU) of the Prime Minister’s Office, through its internet-based complaints management platform, the Citizen Support Portal (CSP), facilitates the registration of complaints, inquiries and suggestions online.

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