

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

## *FOR THE PERIOD*

*1 JANUARY 2016 – 30 JUNE 2017*



*Senior Citizens Council*

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

It is my great pleasure to present the Report of the Senior Citizens Council (Council) for the period 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017, in line with the changes brought to the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act in 2015.

The Council has pursued its efforts towards providing additional incentives and facilities for motivating Senior Citizens Associations (SCAs) to participate in its programmes / activities such as Drama / Dance / Quiz / Story Telling Competitions.

It is encouraging to note the growing interest of SCAs to participate in the Drama and Dance Competitions which have been playing an important role in promoting the policy of active and healthy ageing. On the other hand, the Best Senior Citizens Association Award organized in 2016 has served to recognize the remarkable efforts made by SCAs for organizing activities in the interest of their Members.

In the context of emerging social challenges, a new policy orientation has been adopted by the Council since 2016 by placing greater emphasis on the implementation of intergeneration programme, especially Essay Competition in secondary schools so as to promote intergenerational solidarity and understanding among members of different generations.

The Council has also been mounting in Rodrigues various activities in collaboration with the Rodrigues Federation of SCAs. Arrangements had also been made by the Council for the purchase of 3 Computers from funds provided by the Airports of Mauritius Ltd under the CSR Programme for the Mary Gontran Senior Citizens Centre of Mont Lubin.

May I take this opportunity to convey my warm appreciation to the Ministry of Social Security, the various organisations, the Executive Committee Members of the Council, especially the District Representatives and the sponsors for their continued support to the Council.

Finally, my thanks would go to the Staff of the Council for their remarkable and dedicated support in the implementation of the various activities.

**H. SEEBARUTH, MSK**  
**Chairperson**

## ***VISION***

The vision of the Senior Citizens Council is to promote the concept of successful ageing and encourage our senior citizens to lead an active and healthy life in dignity and in full enjoyment of their rights.

## ***MISSION***

Our mission is to encourage our senior citizens to group into Senior Citizens Associations and to promote programmes / activities for their social integration and welfare in general.

## ***MAIN OBJECTIVES***

The main objectives of the Council are to:

- implement generally activities and projects for the welfare of senior citizens;
- determine areas in which the welfare of senior citizens needs to be improved;
- maintain effective communication with senior citizens;
- establish contacts with organisations engaged in similar activities in Mauritius and abroad;
- advise the government on matters relating to the welfare of senior citizens.

## **GENERAL REVIEW**

### ***MEMBERSHIP / AFFILIATION***

In accordance with the Senior Citizens Act, membership to the Council is opened to persons aged 55 and above. As at 30 June 2017, 747 Senior Citizens Associations in Mauritius and 66 in Rodrigues (making a total of 813) grouping some 93,000 members were affiliated to the Council.

The applications of 42 New Senior Citizens Associations were approved for affiliation to the Council.

### ***AFFILIATION BENEFITS***

The affiliated SCAs are given the opportunity to participate in all programmes / activities of the Council. They also benefit from an annual grant as follows:-

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Year 2016 (Rs)</b>
Up to 49 Members	1,210
50 – 100 members	1,570
101 – 200 members	2,055
201 – 300 members	2,415
301 – 400 members	2,780
Over 400 members	3,020

### ***AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS***

The Council is affiliated with the Help Age International and the “Fédération Internationale des Associations de Personnes Agées” (FIAPA) which pursue similar objectives as the Council. The Council benefits from regular exchange of communication and sharing of experience on elderly issues from these two International Organisations which have working relationship with the United Nations and have affiliated members in various countries around the world.

## ***MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING***

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to promote friendship and sharing of experience on elderly issues between Senior Citizens of Mauritius and Senior Citizens of the following Institutions:

- Respect Age International, Agra, India
- Senior Citizens Council of Delhi, India

## ***MAIN COLLABORATORS***

For the implementation of its programmes and activities, the Council benefitted from the support and collaboration of:

- The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development;
- The Ministry of Arts and Culture
- The Social Welfare Centres and the Community Centres;
- The Registrar of Associations of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment;
- The National Computer Board operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology.

## ***FUNDING***

The Council benefitted from the following source of funding:

- Grant from the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development
- Subscription fees from its affiliated Senior Citizens Associations
- CSR Grant from Airports of Mauritius Ltd

## **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **International Exchange Programme**

#### ***Visit to India***

In the context of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and the Respect Age International (Agra) and the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi, a 13-Member delegation of the SCC led by its Chairperson, Mr. H. Seebarith, MSK, proceeded on an exchange visit to India from 11 February to 20 February 2016.

In line with the MOU, the Respect Age International and the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi have provided board and lodging as well as transport facilities to members of the delegation during their stay in India. In the course of the various functions, detailed information was provided on all facilities and services offered to senior citizens by the Government of Mauritius, especially with regard to pension and related benefits as well as the activities organised by the Council.

The exchange programme has been successful as it has enabled Members of the delegation to benefit from fruitful exchange of views and experience with Indian Senior Citizens Associations. It has also enabled the Council to establish new contacts with Educational Institutions which give much importance to the elderly issues by organising inter-generational programmes.

#### ***Visit from India***

In the same context, a sixteen-Member delegation of the Respect Age International (Agra) (India) led by its President, Mr. J. R. Gupta visited Mauritius from 4 to 10 August 2016. The programme of visit included interactive sessions on ageing issues in various districts and Members from both sides exchanged their views on benefits and privileges being granted by both the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India to elderly persons.



## **Elections of District Representatives**

Elections were held on 18 June 2016 by the Electoral Commissioner's Office for the designation of 10 District Representatives to form part of the Executive Committee of the Council.

## **Intergeneration Programme**

Intergeneration Programme at Secondary Schools were organised by District Representatives in their respective locality to raise awareness on abuse committed against elderly persons and the need for younger generation to show care and solidarity towards our elders.

## **Essay Competition**

This project was initiated In June 2016 for first time in 11 secondary schools with the participation of some 150 Lower VI Students and the support of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research. The Essay Competition was held on Thursday 23 June in the 4 Educational zones at the same time (10 to 11 30 hours)

The Questionnaire was set by experienced Lecturers from the MIE. A prize giving ceremony was held on 8 September 2016 at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. Cash prizes and shields were offered to the winners as follows:

- Rs.10,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Rs.7,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Rs.5,000 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the 3 best essays at National level;
- Rs.2,000 for the best essay at the level of each participating school;
- Shields for all participating schools;
- Certificates of participation and a small gift provided to each student as a measure of encouragement.

## **Psychologists**

With the collaboration of the Ministry, talks were being delivered by Psychologists in the course of activities organised at regional level by District Representatives.

## **Competitions**

As in previous years, the competitions in Drama, Quiz, Story-telling and Dance were organised by the Council with a view to keeping our senior citizens active and also encouraging them to use their skills and talent. The high participation of Members of Senior Citizens Associations in the Dance Competition was a sign that our senior citizens are aware of the need to keep themselves fit.

### ***Drama***

The Drama Competitions in Bhojpuri and Creole started on 19 April 2016 with workshops conducted by Resource Persons from the Ministry of Arts and Culture and were followed by preliminaries on 01, 02 and 03 June. The finals were held at the Serge Constantin Theatre, Vacoas, on 13 July 2016 for both Bhojpuri and Creole sections.

The finalists were offered medals whereas cash prizes and shields were presented to the winners in both categories.

### ***Dance***

Preliminaries of the Dance Competitions (Bhojpuri and Segga) were organised at the James Burty David Recreation Centre on 16, 19, 20, 21 and 22 September 2016 whereas the semi-finals took place on 26 September 2016.

The Jury Members had a very tough time in the selection exercise for the 10 finalists in each category as the participants were well prepared with the choice of songs and dancing attire. The selection of finalists was based, inter alia, on presentation/choreography, synchronization, expression,

musical instruments coordination, costume, make-up, time and use of space.

The finals in both categories were held on 6 October 2016, in the presence of the Hon Minister of Social Security, NS & RI.

### ***Quiz & Story-Telling***

The finals of the Quiz and Story-telling competitions were held on 28 and 29 September 2016 at the JBD Recreation Centre for the elderly, Pointe Aux Sables.

Cash prizes were offered to the winners of the Competition and a Certificate of Participation was also given to all the participants.

### **International Day of the Elderly**

On 1 October 2016, the International Elderly Day of the Elderly was celebrated at the J & J Auditorium, Phoenix, where good seating and transportation arrangements were made for all Members of Senior Citizens Associations.

Arrangements were made by the Council with the support of the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI for some 2,500 Members of Senior Citizens Associations from all regions to attend the function.

The programme comprised official addresses and cultural items.

### **Annual Grant**

The payment of the Annual Grant was launched on 24 November 2016 at the NPF Building in the presence of the Hon. Minister of Social Security, NS & RI. A total amount of about Rs. 1,4 Million was disbursed by the Council to all the affiliated SCAs of Mauritius and Rodrigues. Payment was effected by the Staff of the Council with the support of District Representatives in their respective regions on 24, 25 and 28 November 2016.

As for Rodrigues, payment was made in October 2016.

## **On-going Activities**

### ***Talks and Courses***

The Council organised with the collaboration of the National Computer Board, IT Course in the NCB coaches in various regions for Members of the Senior Citizens Associations.

The support of the Registrar of Associations was also obtained for conducting talks in Management of Associations at district / ward level to better educate members on how to keep an effective control of their account and better manage their Associations in accordance with the legal requirements.

### ***Preventive Health***

On-going Preventive Health sessions were organised by the Council at district / ward level for the benefit of senior citizens. The topics covered inter alia general health care, Alzheimer, diabetes, tension and mental problems. The sessions were conducted with the assistance of Dr. Mrs. Y. Soopal-Lutchmun, Medical Director of the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI.

### ***Legal Counselling Programme***

Legal Counselling sessions were organised by the Council with the collaboration of District Representatives in various regions during the year.

### ***News Bulletin***

The Seventh issue of the News Bulletin of the Council was launched and distributed to all Ministries / Departments and affiliated SCAs in November 2016.

The News Bulletin provides updated information on all the programmes / activities organised by the Council and the District Representatives in their respective regions.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT**

The Senior Citizens Council was established in 1985 as a body corporate and is governed by the Senior Citizens Council Act 1995, as amended in 2011. It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions.

### **Statement of Compliance**

The Executive Committee of the Senior Citizens Council is committed to the application of the Code of Good Corporate Governance in its operations as issued by the National Committee on Corporate Governance established by the Financial Reporting Act.

All major policy decisions and activities of the Council are approved by the Committee after satisfying itself that all administrative, financial and other relevant procedures have been followed by Management.

The Senior Citizens Council is committed to the highest standards of integrity, transparency and professionalism in all its activities to ensure that these are managed ethically and with responsibility in the best interest of members of Senior Citizens Associations.

### **Council Governance Structure**

The Council is administered and managed by the SCC Executive Committee in accordance with section 6 of the SCC Act 1995 (as amended in 2011). The Council consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Ex-officio Members from the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI, Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health & Quality of Life and Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues Division), the Medical Director, 10 Elected District Representatives and 3 Independent Members.

### **Sub-Committees**

Several Meetings of Sub-Committees comprising the Elected District / Ward Representatives were held during the year to discuss important issues relating to Budget preparation, competitions, visit of delegation from India, holding of activities such as National Day Celebrations and International Day of the Elderly.

### **Representative of Rodrigues Federation of Senior Citizens Associations**

A Representative of the Rodrigues Federation of Senior Citizens Association is given the opportunity to attend the Executive Committee Meeting of the Council every three months. The objective is to ensure that the Senior Citizens Associations in Rodrigues are kept informed of the activities / programmes for senior citizens and have the chance to participate in the deliberations of the Council.

## List of Executive Committee Members

Chairperson	Mr. H. Seebaruth, MSK
Vice-Chairperson	Mrs. Raseeda Bibi Hossenbaccus
Representative of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development	Mr. D. Kawol, Deputy Permanent Secretary
Medical Director, Ministry of Social Security and Environment and Sustainable Development	Dr. Mrs. Y. Soopal-Lutchmun
Representative of the Department of Rodrigues, PMO	Mrs. Mrs. S. Gowrydoss Miss A. Nanette (Alternate)
Representative of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life	Mrs. R. Tonta
Representative of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development & Family Welfare	Mr. A. Appadoo
Elected Member – District of Grand Port	Mr. G. Juggessur
Elected Member – District of Moka	Mr. J. Mattarooa
Elected Member – District of Pamplemousses	Mr. H. Seenarain
Elected Member – District of Port Louis	Mrs. S. Abbassmamode
Elected Member – Upper Plaines Wilhems (Ward)	Mrs. O. Jawaheer
Elected Member – Lower Plaines Wilhems (Ward)	Mr. G. Dookhit
Elected Member – District of Rivière du Rempart	Mr. K. Ramsawmy, MSK
Elected Member – District of Savanne	Mr. V. Rungasamy, MSK
Elected Member – District of Black River	Mr. H. Hurdial
Elected Member District of Flacq	Mr. R. Gopaul
Independent Members	Miss M. Mactoom Mr. C.B. Neersoo Mr. M. J. Soyfoo

## **Profile of Executive Committee Members**

### **(i) Mr. Hanslall Seebaruth, MSK**

Mr. H. Seebaruth, MSK was a Principal and Chief Usher at the Supreme Court until his retirement and is currently serving as a registered Freelance Usher. He has completed the Usher's Examination and the Intermediate Attorney's Examination.

### **(ii) Mrs. Bibi Raseeda Hossenbaccus**

Mrs. R. B. Hossenbaccus was a Craft Teacher at the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and acted as Family Support Officer in connection with HIV Aids for Women's Associations at the National Women Council. She is involved in social work concerning promotion of the welfare of the elderly for several years.

### **(iii) Mr. Dhananjay Kawol**

Mr. D. Kawol has been serving for 25 years in the Public Sector. He has worked in several Ministries and has joined the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Reforms Institutions in January 2015. He has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council of Port Louis and Quatre Bornes. He has followed various courses and participated in Seminars and Conferences overseas. He has been the Acting Chairperson of the Council for the period January to May 2015. He holds an MBA with specialisation in Human Resource Management.

### **(iv) Dr. (Mrs.) Y. Soopal-Lutchmun**

Dr. (Mrs.) Y. Soopal-Lutchmun is working as the Medical Director of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions. She has worked at the Ministry of Health since 2005 and joined the Ministry of Social Security, NS and RI since 2013.

She is also a Board Member of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and various other Boards / Committees operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, & Reform Institutions. She holds a M.D., M.P.H. and an MBA.



**(v) Mrs. Sewrany Gowrydoss**

Mrs. S. Gowrydoss, Assistant Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, has 35 years' experience in the Civil Service after having worked in various Ministries and is the Schedule Officer for the Rodrigues Division at the Prime Minister's Office. She is holder of a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Pekin.

**(vi) Mrs Goindamah Poovin**

Mrs. G. Poovin reckons 36 years' experience in the Civil Service and is currently the Office Management Executive Officer at the Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues Division).

**(vii) Mrs. Roseline Tonta**

Mrs. R. Tonta is an Office Management Executive at the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life. She has 29 years' experience in the Public Sector.

**(viii) Mr. Aveenash Appadoo**

Mr. Aveenash Appadoo joined the Civil service in 2001 and holds the substantive post of Coordinator at the Ministry of Gender, Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDFW). He has worked as Social Facilitator at the Trust Fund for Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups. Currently, he is performing higher duties of Head Planning and Research Unit at the MGECDFW. He is the holder of an MSc in Social Development from the University of Mauritius.

**(ix) Mrs. Sabera Abassmamode**

Mrs. S. Abassmamode has 40 years' experience in the Public Service and retired as Ward Manager in the Nursing and Health Sector. She is currently the President of the Senior Citizens Club of & the Elderly Watch Committee of Camp Yolloff.

**(x) Mr. Gooroocharan Dookhit**

Mr. G. Dookhit has worked as a Financial Adviser in the Private Sector for 39 years. He has participated in various International Conventions. Currently he is the President of the Beau Bassin Rose Hill Federation of Senior Citizens Associations. He holds a Secondary Higher School Certificate and followed courses in Financial Management.

**(xi) Mr. Ravindranath Gopaul**

Mr. R. Gopaul, former Principal Youth Officer at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and former President of Moka-Flacq Youth Federation, is currently an active Member of the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of Flacq. He was also a Trainer in Leadership and Entreprenariat Jeunesse (CONFJES) and was trained in Youth work in India, Reunion Island and Senegal. He is holder of a Diploma in Social Work (University of Mauritius) and a Diploma in Youth Development (University of Zambia / Commonwealth Youth Programme).

**(xii) Mr. Harrydeo Hurdial**

Mr. H. Hurdial has worked in Import and Export (Private Sector) as Clearing and Forwarding Clerk during 40 years. Since 5 years, he is engaged in social work as President of a Senior Citizens Association. He is the Secretary at the Old Visual Impaired Student Association and the President of a socio-cultural organisation at Petite Riviere.

**(xiii) Mrs. Oormeela Jawaheer**

Mrs. O. Jawaheer is an Occupational & Health Safety Consultant in the Private Sector on a part-time basis and is currently the President of the Mauritius Red Cross Society. She holds a BSc in Occupational Health & Safety and Human Resource Management.

**(xiv) Mr. Guirdharry Juggessur**

Mr. G. Juggessur has served for 35 years in the Educational Sector. He was the President of the Mauritius Syndicate and Cooperative Agricultural Federation. He is currently the President of the Golden Age Intergeneration Association. He holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Education and a BSc Hons in Chemistry.

**(xv) Mr. Jayelall Mattarooa**

Mr. J. Mattarooa was the President of the Moka Flacq District Council in the 90s and President of the Social Welfare Centre of St Julien d'Hotman. For 25 years he has served as President of the Camp Thorel Village Council. Currently, he is the President of Bus Owners of the regions of Flacq and Curepipe.

**(xvi) Mr. K. Ramsawmy, MSK**

Mr. Kishnah Ramsawmy, MSK, currently employed at the Beachcomber Group, precisely at Trou Aux Biches Resorts & Spa, is the Secretary of l'Amitié Senior Citizens Association and a Member of the Elderly Watch of Rivière du Rempart. He is also involved in the activities of various Associations.

**(xvii) Mr. Vengrasamy Rungasamy, MSK**

Mr. V. Rungasamy, MSK has served as Attorney Clerk for some 40 years and is a former President of the District Council of Grand Port / Savanne. He was also a Member of the Local Government Service Commission and is currently the President of the Elderly Watch Committee of his region.

**(xviii) Mr. Hoolassoo Seenarain**

Mr. H. Seenarain worked in the Public Sector for several years and is currently the President of La Rose D'Or Senior Citizens Association of

Notre Dame, and of the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of Pamplemousses.

**(ixx) Miss Mariam Bibi Mactoom**

Miss M. Mactoom has received the Badge of Honour (Mauritius) in 2006 and has some 40 years' experience in Social Work. She is currently the Honorary Vice President of EDYCS Epilepsy Group, and an Executive Member of the Women Islamic Association.

**(xx) Mr. Chandra Bose Neersoo**

Mr. C .B. Neersoo is engaged in social work and has a vast experience on environmental issues as he has worked in the Ministry of Environment.

**(xxi) Mr. Mohammade Javed Soyfoo**

Mr. M. J. Soyfoo is an active social worker and self-employed in the field of alarm system installation. He holds a Diploma in Telecommunications & Electronics.

**Attendance Record and Remuneration of  
Council's Executive Committee Members**

Name of Member	Attendance at Meetings		Remuneration (Fees Executive Cttee meetings including Sub-Committee, Travelling & Others)
	Exco	Sub-Cttee	
Mr. H. Seebaruth, MSK (Chairperson)	13/13	11/11	378,000
Mrs. R. Hossenbaccus (Vice-Chairperson)	13/13	2/11	21,815
Mr. D. Kawol	13/13	1/11	19,500
Dr. Mrs. Y. Soopal-Lutchmun	10/13	-	15,000
Mrs. S. Gowrydoss Mrs. G. Pouvin	9/13 3/13	2/11	15,130 4,500
Mr. A. Appadoo	5/13	-	7,500
Mrs. R. Tonta	13/13	-	19,500
Mrs. S. Abbassmamode	12/13	9/11	27,945
Mr. G. Dookhit	9/13	6/11	18,930
Mr. R. Gopaul	13/13	10/11	30,530
Mr. H. Hurdyal	13/13	9/11	29,675
Mrs. O. Jawaheer	12/13	9/11	27,945
Mr. G. Juggessur	9/13	8/11	20,560
Mr. J. Mattarooa	8/13	6/11	15,740
Mr. K. Ramsawmy, MSK	13/13	8/11	26,705
Mr. V. Rungasamy	13/13	9/11	27,480
Mr. H. Seenarain	12/13	8/11	25,145
Mr. C. B. Neersoo	10/13	-	17,290
Miss M. Mactoom	12/13	-	18,705
Mr. M. J. Soyfoo	13/13	-	20,265
Mr. Francis Clair	4/13	-	6,000
Mr. B. Khedun	4/13	1/11	7,000
Mr. A. R. Saib	3/13	2/11	5,445
Mr. H. Sonatun	4/13	2/11	7,775

## STAFF PROFILE

Mr. Anbanaden Veerasamy, OSK, is employed on a yearly contract basis, as Administrative Secretary of the Council. He has served for some 40 years in the Public Sector with some 20 years in a Senior Management position in various Ministries until his retirement as Permanent Secretary. He holds an MBA in Human Resource and Knowledge Management. He is supported by a team of staff comprising:

- (i) Mrs. Beenah Devi Seebaluck, Assistant Secretary, employed on a yearly contract basis and holder of a Diploma in Public Administration and Management;
- (ii) Mrs. Rita Balgobin, holder of BSc (Management) and Miss Kooshbu Dabee, holder of Higher School Certificate, as Clerk Word Processing Operators; and
- (iii) Mrs. Nazimah B. Shah, Financial Officer / Senior Financial Officer and Mrs. V. Lutchmun, Financial Officer / Senior Financial Operations of the Ministry of Social Security, NS and RI, who are providing support to the Council on a part-time basis in the preparation of the financial accounts and handling the financial transactions of the Council respectively.

In addition, 2 Senior Elderly Welfare Assistants and 18 Elderly Welfare Assistants are employed by the Council to provide service to Senior Citizens at the Elderly Day Care Centres located in various regions.

## ***STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES***

The Executive Committee is responsible for the overall management of the Fund of the Council and for ensuring that the proper standards of corporate governance are maintained and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations.

The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act requires the preparation of financial statements for each financial year which present fairly the Annual Report, the financial position and the cash flows of the relevant Body.

The Executive Committee confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements and has:

- made estimations that are reasonable and prudent;
- kept proper accounting records in full transparency
- safeguard the assets of the Council by maintaining appropriate control procedures
- taken reasonable steps for preventing and detection of fraud and irregularities.

## ***ETHICS***

The actions and conduct of the Council are guided by the Code of Ethics published by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

## ***INTERNAL CONTROL & RISK MANAGEMENT***

The Committee is committed to adopt a sound system of internal control and risk management with a view to safeguarding its assets.

## ***HEALTH AND SAFETY***

The Council complies with health and safety regulations. No incidents have been reported during the year.

## ***SOCIAL ISSUES***

The Council is an equal opportunities employer and considers the welfare and development of its employees to be very important.

### ***3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2015-2017)***

The three-year Strategic Plan of the Council covers mainly the following:

- implement activities / programmes for the welfare and social integration of members of the affiliated Senior Citizens Associations;
- implement and support programmes aimed at promoting active and healthy ageing;
- promote activities / programmes aimed at recognising and rewarding the talent and experience of senior citizens;
- encourage Senior Citizens Associations to make optimum utilisation of Elderly Day Care Centres in their respective District / Ward;
- implement intergenerational programme at both national and regional level and education environment, with a view to promoting intergenerational solidarity.

## ***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee of the Council on 4 September 2017 and signed on its behalf by the Chairperson and an Executive Committee Member.





# NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Senior Citizens Council which comprise the statement of financial position as of 30 June 2017, and of its statement of financial performance and statement of cash flows for the 18-month period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Senior Citizens Council as of 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the 18-month period then ended in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities issued under the Financial Reporting Act and Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Supreme Audit Institutions together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Mauritius, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities issued under the Financial Reporting Act and the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible of overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence, obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

## **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

### ***Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act***

I have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.

In my opinion, in all material respects:

- the Senior Citizens Council has complied with the Act and any directions of Minister to whom its responsibility is assigned, in so far as they relate to the accounts;
- as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, expenditure incurred were not of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;
- the Senior Citizens Council has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations fairly and economically.

## ***Public Procurement Act***

The Senior Citizens Council is responsible for the planning and conduct of its procurement. It is also responsible for defining and choosing the appropriate method of procurement and contract type in accordance with the provisions of the Act and relevant Regulations. My responsibility is to report on whether the provisions of Part V of the Act regarding the Bidding Process have been complied with.

In my opinion, the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with as far as it appears from my examination of the relevant records.



**K.C. TSE YUET CHEONG (MRS)**

Director of Audit

National Audit Office

Level 14,

Air Mauritius Centre

**PORT LOUIS**

15 March 2018

