







Mauritius Qualifications Authority

2022 - 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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About the MQA



On behalf of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) Board, I would like to thank the Director and staff of the MQA for their dedicated effort and it is my honour and pleasure to present the Annual Report 2022-2023 together with the financial statements for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

R Guttee
Chairperson





Dr R K Phoolchund

Director

Director's Statement

It is indeed a privilege for me to report on the activities of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) to all partners of the training industry as well as to the public at large in respect of the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Since the Authority had started its operations on 08 May 2002, it has strived towards attaining the highest standard in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Mauritius. I can say that after more than 20 years of existence, the MQA has made tremendous headway with the collaboration of key partners in the training sector.

I thank here the Honourable Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, the Chairperson of the MQA Board together with the Members and all my colleagues of the Authority for their close collaboration and support.

I have the pleasure to submit details of activities carried out at the MQA for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 in the chapter on "MQA Achievements & Activities."

Vision, Mission and Objects of MQA

Vision

Valued qualifications for employability and lifelong learning

Mission

To continuously enhance good practices and relevant expertise to safeguard public interest in quality education and training

Objects

As per the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001, the objects of the MQA shall be to:

- develop, implement and maintain a National Qualifications Framework;
- ensure compliance with provisions for registration and accreditation;
- ensure that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable.



Services Offered

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Division was, during the period of review, responsible for:

- General Administration
- Human Resources
- Information and Communication Technology
- Finance
- Procurement
- Registry
- Public Relations
- Stores & Documentation
- Assisting in Legal Matters

Framework Services

The Framework Services Division was, during the period of review, responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) by developing and validating qualifications
- Determining level of comparability of foreign qualifications from level one to ten of the NQF
- Establishing Recognition and Equivalence of qualifications in the TVET sector
- Implementing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in various sectors of the economy from Level 1 to Level 6 of the NQF
- Training of RPL Facilitators, Assessors & registration of RPL Facilitators
- Advising on all policy matters relating to the NQF processes

Quality Assurance Services

The Quality Assurance Services Division was, during the period of review, responsible for:

- Registration and renewal of registration of Training Institutions
- Accreditation of Award Programmes
- Monitoring and Quality Audit of Training Institutions
- Maintaining databases in respect of Training Institutions, Managers, Programme Officers and Accredited Programmes
- Policies in relation to regulation of training
- Research on Quality Assurance

Learner Attainment & Information Services

The Learner Attainment & Information Services Division was, during the period of review, responsible for:

- Compiling, Analysing and Reporting on TVET statistics
- Maintaining a database of TVET learners' enrolment
- Collaborating with international organisations for cooperation and agreements
- Dissemination of information on training to the general public, students and stakeholders through face-to-face meetings, sensitization campaign, etc.
- Complaints handling in relation to training & addressing illegal training
- Liaising with Attorney General's Office and dealing with legal matters pertaining to TVET training, attending court cases & dealing with appeal cases against decision of MQA
- Reporting and furnishing information/documents to investigatory authorities (Police, ICAC etc.) on cases related to training
- Monitoring of training

The Role and Functions of MQA

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) was established as a body corporate under the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001. It operated under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology during the period of review.

The MQA became operational since 08 May 2002 and its main role as a regulatory body is (i) to maintain the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) – a system designed to recognise the attainment of knowledge, understanding and skills by people in Mauritius; (ii) to ensure compliance with provisions for registration and accreditation of training institutions; (iii) to ensure that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable; (iv) to recognize and evaluate qualifications for the purpose of establishing their equivalence in the TVET sector and (v) to recognize and validate competencies acquired outside the formal education and training systems.

The functions of the Authority were

- (a) to formulate and publish policies and criteria, in respect of the technical and vocational training sector, for-
 - (i) the registration of bodies responsible for establishing national standards and qualifications;
 - (ii) the accreditation of bodies responsible for monitoring and auditing such standards and qualifications; and
 - (iii) the registration and accreditation of training institutions;
- (b) to generate and register national standards for any occupation:
- to register qualifications, other than those obtained in the primary, secondary and postsecondary educational sectors;



- (d) to register and accredit training institutions in Mauritius;
- (e) to recognise and validate competencies for purposes of certification obtained outside the formal education and training systems;
- (f) to recognise and evaluate qualifications, other than those obtained in the primary, secondary and post-secondary educational sectors, for the purpose of establishing their equivalence;
- (g) to approve non-award courses dispensed by training institutions and employers;
- (h) to keep a database of learning accounts of Mauritians;
- (i) to publish an annual list of registered unit standards, qualifications and training institutions;
- (j) to advise the Minister on matters pertaining to the National Qualifications Framework;
- (k) to perform any other function which the Minister may assign and which is relevant to the National Qualifications Framework.

Gender Statement

The MQA is committed to gender equity and equality for the achievement of sustainable development. Both men and women have equal access to the services and schemes offered by the Authority.

There is no gender discrimination to participate in any training and capacity building programmes. Opportunities provided apply to men and women equally.

The MQA promotes a gender-responsive organizational culture, where both women and men have equal opportunities for employment or promotion within the organizational structure.

The MQA also promotes equal participation of women with men as decision-makers in any activities of the Authority.

The MQA provides a conducive environment whereby a culture of equal respect of men and women prevails.

Policies formulated and developed by the Authority are gender sensitive and measures are taken to engender the TVET programmes in Mauritius.

MQA ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



he Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) was headed by the Director who was assisted by a Deputy Director until 15 January 2023 and then with effect from 31 January 2023 by the Manager Quality Assurance who was assigned the duties of Deputy Director. The activities of the MQA are organised under four Divisions namely: Corporate Services, Quality Assurance Services, Framework Services and Learner Attainment & Information Services as follows:



Directorate

Dr Robin Krishnaduth Phoolchund was the Director of MQA for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. He was responsible for the execution of the policy, and the control and management of the day-to-day business of the organisation.



Mr V A Ramchurn

Deputy Director

The Director was assisted by the Deputy Director, Mr Vijaye Anand Ramchurn until mid-January 2023 and as from 31 January 2023 Dr Ramesh Ramdass, Manager Quality Assurance was assigned duties of the Deputy Director.

Corporate Services Division

Director

In 2022/2023, the duties of the Manager, Corporate Services were assigned to the Accountant/Senior Accountant, Mrs S Dawonauth. She was assisted by an Administrative Officer, Mr J Makoonlall and a Systems Administrator, Mr N Ujoodha.

The Corporate Services Division is responsible for General Administration, Finance, Procurement, Information Systems and Human Resource Management. The Division also assists in Legal Matters and deals with Public Relations amongst others.



Mrs S Dawonauth
Accountant/Senior Accountant
Assigned duties of Manager
Corporate Services



Dr R Ramdass

Manager, Quality Assurance
Assigned duties of Deputy Director

Framework Services Division

During the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the duties of the Manager, Framework Services were assigned to the Accreditation Officer, Mr R Ramchurun.

Mr R Ramchurun was assisted by one Accreditation Officer namely Mr R Nookadee. The Division was responsible for maintaining the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), and developing and generating National Qualifications and Unit Standards in different sectors.

The implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) within Mauritius and Rodrigues and the granting of recognition and equivalence to qualifications on the NQF also fall under the responsibility of this Division.



Mr Rajcoomar Ramchurun

Accreditation Officer

Assigned duties of Manager
Framework Services



Dr R Ramdass

Manager, Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance Services Division

In 2022/2023, the Quality Assurance Services (QAS) Division was managed by Dr R Ramdass. He was assisted by four Accreditation Officers, namely Mrs P R Hardowar, Mrs P D Ramodhin, Mr V Deenoo and Mr V Mungroo as well as by Mrs S Sunya Naiku, Higher Executive Officer who was assigned duties of Accreditation Officer.

The Division is responsible for the registration of Training Institutions comprising monitoring and evaluation of Training Institutions, accreditation of award programmes, approval of non-award courses and formulation of policies in relation to regulation of training. It is also the responsibility of this Division to develop quality assurance processes that are in line with international best practices.

QAS was the first Division to shift from manual to electronic filing and processing systems by the use of online platforms. In the same vein, application and

processing of registration as well as renewal of registration of training institutions were carried out on the National e-Licensing System (NELS).

Learner Attainment & Information Services Division



Mr S Bhunjun

Manager, Learner Attainment
and Information Services

The Learner Attainment and Information Services was in 2022/2023 managed by Mr S Bhunjun. He was assisted by three Accreditation Officers namely, Mrs U G Santokhee Chinniah (from 23 January 2023), Mrs G Baulah-Padaruth and Ms C K Jankee.

The Division is responsible for establishing and maintaining learning accounts for Mauritians in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector (TVET).

The Learner Attainment and Information Services Division is also responsible for the compilation and submission of reports on statistics pertaining to TVET enrolment in MQA registered Training Institutions, handling complaints against training institutions and illegal operation regarding training. Besides dissemination of information on training, this Division is also responsible to monitor training, report to investigatory authorities and deal with legal matters pertaining to training.



Management and Staff for the Period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Director

Dr Robin Krishnaduth PHOOLCHUND

Deputy Director

Mr Vijaye Anand RAMCHURN

- On Leave without Pay w.e.f. 16.01.2023

Managers

Dr Ramesh RAMDASS

Manager, Quality Assurance Services
 Assigned duties of Deputy Director w.e.f
 31.01.2023

Mr Subiraj BHUNJUN

 Manager, Learner Attainment & Information Services

Accountant/Senior Accountant

Mrs Scilla DAWONAUTH

- Assigned duties of Manager, Corporate Services

Administrative Officer

Mr Jaydrutt MAKOONLALL

Accreditation Officers

Mr Rajcoomar RAMCHURUN

 Assigned duties of Manager, Framework Services

- Resumed duty w.e.f 23.01.2023

Mr Ramsamy NOOKADEE

Mrs Pratima Rajeswaree HARDOWAR

Mrs Urvasi Gowtam SANTOKHEE CHINNIAH

LINI \

Ms Premila Devi RAMODHIN

Mr Vishal DEENOO

Mrs Geetanjali BAULAH-PADARUTH

Ms Bibi Zaynah TOOFANY

- On Permanent Transfer w.e.f 13.12.2022

Mr Vishal MUNGROO

Ms Chetrani Kumari JANKEE

Systems Administrator

Mr Neerunjunsingh UJOODHA

Accounting Technician

Mrs Pasmawtee GOPEE

ICT Technicians

Mr Shahbaaz NOORMAHOMED

Mr Muhammad Amjud DOOKHAN

Higher Executive Officers

Mrs Kooshmowtee SEEWOOCHURN

Mrs Nodranee PUTTY

Ms Anjalee Devi PEEROO

Mrs Swastee SUNYA NAIKU

- Assigned duties of Accreditation Officer

Confidential Secretaries

Mrs Jacqueline CHAN PAK CHOON

Mrs Marie Stephanie MARGUERITTE

Management Support Officers

Mrs Preety KODI RAMANAH

Mrs Prema CAUNHYE

Ms Visanjali VEEREN

Ms Bharati JAHUL

Clerk/Word Processing Operator/ Receptionists

Mr Kavish BHOONAH

Mrs Rosemarie BEGUE

(MQA Office in Rodrigues)

Receptionist/Telephone Operator

Ms Heera APPA

Drivers/Office Attendants

Mr Joynauth RAMESSUR

Mr Khooblall BISSOONAUTH

Mr Amjaad Saib CASSIM SAIB



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of the National Code of Corporate Governance, the application of the eight Principles of Corporate Governance are as follows:

Principle 1: Governance Structure

The Board

The MQA Board has been established to administer and control the Authority as per Section 7 of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) Act 2001.

The Board consists of members appointed by the Minister (to whom responsibility for the subject of education is assigned) as well as ex officio members.

After promulgation of The Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021 (Act No. 15 of 2021), The Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2019 (Act No. 14 of 2019), The Higher Education Act 2017 (Act No. 23 of 2017), The Mauritius Institute of Training and Development Act 2009 (Act No. 12 of 2009) and The Education and Training (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2005 (Act No. 18 of 2005), the composition of the Board has been reviewed. As per the amended MQA Act, the Board shall consist of:

- (a) a Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister;
- (b) a Vice-Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister in consultation with Business Mauritius;
- (c) the Supervising Officer of the Ministry responsible for the subject of training;
- (d) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for the subject of education or his representative;
- (e) the Commissioner of the Higher Education Commission or his representative;
- (f) the Executive Director of the Quality Assurance Authority or his representative;
- (g) the Director of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development or his representative;
- (h) one representative of registered private training institutions to be appointed by the Minister; and
- (i) one independent person to be appointed by the Minister.



Statement of Directors' Responsibility

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) has prepared the financial statements which give a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Directors of MQA confirm that in the preparation of the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

- appropriate accounting policies and standards have been used, consistently applied and have been supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates;
- the accounting standards which have been followed have been stated and any material departure disclosed with reasons; and
- the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The audit of the financial statements is carried out by the National Audit Office (NAO).

The auditor is responsible to report on whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements were, in all material respects, in compliance with laws and authorities which govern them and that the financial statements were fairly represented.

R GUTTEE

Chairperson

D RAMLUGGUN Board Member

Principle 2: The Structure of the Board and its Committees

By virtue of the MQA Act and subsequent amendments, the Board actually consists of nine members. The Board has set up four Sub-Committees namely (i) Human Resource Committee (ii) Finance and Procurement Committee (iii) Technical Committee and (iv) Audit and Risk Committee. Each Sub-Committee is composed of three Board Members. The Board as well as each Sub-Committee have a Chairperson and a Secretary.

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority Board

The composition of the MQA Board for the Period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 was as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	
Mr R GUTTEE	-	Chairperson
Mr D RAMLUGGUN	Head of Social Capital, Business Mauritius	Vice Chairperson
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Member)	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	
Mrs S LOTUN (Until 25 August 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	
Mrs I RUGJEE (As from 01 March 2023)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	
Mr P PIRTHEE (From 08 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	
Mr J HAUROO (Until 07 July 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	Members
Mr S M SURAT (Alternate Member until 28 February 2023)	Ag. Director, Employment Services, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	
Prof. (Mrs) R MOHEE	Commissioner, Higher Education Commission	
Prof. (Mrs) K NAIDOO (As from 08 March 2023)	Executive Director, Quality Assurance Authority	1
Mr S MAUDARBOCUS	Ag. Director, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development	
Mr Y MATABUDUL	Chief Executive Officer, Polytechnics Mauritius, Representative of Registered Private Training Institutions	
Mr R RANDHAY	Independent Person	

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the MQA Board was chaired by Mr R GUTTEE.



Meetings of the Board

- The Board meets at least once a month, as provided by section 8 of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001.
- Ordinary Meetings are well scheduled in advance and all papers are circulated at least forty-eight hours before the meetings.
- Five members constitute the quorum.
- The Director attends every meeting of the Board and takes part in the deliberations of the Board but does not vote on any matter before the Board.
- The Secretary of the Board attends all Board meetings and records the minutes of all meetings.

Statement of Attendance of Board Members

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, thirteen (13) Board meetings were held.

The attendance of Board Members at the meetings was as follows:

NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS	NUMBER OF BOARD MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr R GUTTEE	13 out of 13
Mr D RAMLUGGUN	8 out of 13
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	9 out of 11
Mrs S LOTUN (Until 25 August 2022)	2 out of 2
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Member)	2 out of 2
Mrs I RUGJEE (As from 01 March 2023)	3 out of 4
Mr P PIRTHEE (From 08 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	6 out of 8
Mr J HAUROO (Until 07 July 2022)	-
Mr S M SURAT (Alternate Member until 28 February 2023)	1 out of 1
Prof. (Mrs) R MOHEE	11 out of 13
Prof. (Dr) K NAIDOO (As from 08 March 2023)	3 out of 4
Mr S MAUDARBOCUS	12 out of 13
Mr Y MATABUDUL	5 out of 13
Mr R RANDHAY	12 out of 13



Sub-Committees of the Board

In accordance with the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act, the Board had established four Sub-Committees namely, the Finance and Procurement Committee, the Human Resource Committee, the Technical Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Sub-Committees assist the Board by having a comprehensive and in-depth examination of specific issues.

Sub-Committee meetings are scheduled before the Board meetings in advance and all papers are usually circulated at least forty-eight hours before the meetings.

The Sub-Committees of the Board consist of Members of the Board but the Board may co-opt persons who are not Members of the Board to the committees.

The Chairperson of each Sub-Committee then respectively submits recommendations to the Board through a Report.

The Director also attends each Sub-Committee meetings. Each Sub-Committee has a Secretary who records the minutes of all meetings.

Finance & Procurement Committee

Composition

The Finance and Procurement Committee is a Sub-Committee of the Board comprising at least three members.

The Chairperson and Members of the Finance and Procurement Committee are appointed by the Board. For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the composition of the Finance & Procurement Committee was as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	
Mrs S LOTUN (Until 25 August 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	Chairperson
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Chairperson)	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	
Mr D RAMLUGGUN	Vice Chairperson, MQA Board	Member
Mr S MAUDARBOCUS	Ag. Director, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD)	Member

Mrs S Dawonauth, Accountant/Senior Accountant acted as the Secretary of the Finance and Procurement Committee.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Finance and Procurement Committee are as follows:

- (a) Inspect MQA's financial reports
- (b) Recommend MQA's year-end Financial Statements to the Board
- (c) Examination of MQA's budget
- (d) Ensure compliance and review of the Financial Procedures
- (e) Examination of contracts for consultants
- (f) Approval for launching of Tenders/Quotations for:
 - Building and Construction Works
 - General Procurement
- (g) Opening of Tenders
- (h) Financial Evaluation of Projects
- (i) Other financial issues

Frequency of Meetings

The Finance and Procurement Committee meets at least quarterly and the participation of two members shall constitute the quorum. In case of urgency on financial issues, a meeting can be convened at a shorter interval.

Statement of Attendance

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, nine (09) Finance & Procurement Committee meetings were held.

The attendance of the members at the meetings of the Finance and Procurement Committee for the period 01.07.22 to 30.06.23 was as follows:-

NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS/ REPRESENTATIVES	NUMBER OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	3 out of 7
Mrs S LOTUN (Until 25 August 2022)	2 out of 2
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Chairperson)	4 out of 4
Mr D RAMLUGGUN	5 out of 9
Mr S MAUDARBOCUS	8 out of 9



Human Resource Committee

Composition

The Human Resource Committee is a sub-committee of the Board comprising at least three members of the Board.

The Chairperson and Members of the Human Resource Committee are appointed by the Board. For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the composition of the Committee was as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Chairperson)	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	Chairperson
Mrs I RUGJEE (As from 01 March 2023)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	
Mr P PIRTHEE (From 08 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	Member
Prof. (Dr) Mrs R MOHEE	The Commissioner, Higher Education Commission	Member

Mr V Ramchurn, Deputy Director acted as Secretary of the Human Resource Committee until 15 January 2023 and from then onwards Mrs S Dawonauth, Accountant/Senior Accountant was the Secretary.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Human Resource Committee are as follows:

- (a) To recommend to the Board for approval of all appointments, confirmations, promotions, induction of all staff and appropriate staff development
- (b) To consider and recommend to the Board any disciplinary action envisaged related to either performance problems or conduct, as ascertained by MQA Management in relation to any Staff
- (c) To consider, deliberate and recommend to the MQA Board strategic HR issues and policies
- (d) To formulate projects on policy development and surveys to be undertaken by the HR Division
- (e) To ensure proper working environment within the organization as per the OHS Act
- (f) To ensure that the relevant sections of the Employment Rights Act and Employment Relations
 Act are being implemented and ensure equal opportunities within the organization

Frequency of Meetings

The Human Resource Committee meets as and when required and the participation of two members constitutes the quorum.

Statement of Attendance

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, six (06) Human Resource Committee meetings were held.

The attendance of Board Members and Representatives at the meetings of the Human Resource Committee for the period 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 was as follows:-

NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS/REPRESENTATIVES	NUMBER OF HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr Y MUNBODH (As from 26 August 2022)	5 out of 6
Mrs S GOWRYDOSS (Alternate Chairperson)	1 out of 1
Mrs I RUGJEE (As from 01 March 2023)	1 out of 1
Mr P PIRTHEE (From 08 July 2022 to 28 February 2023)	4 out of 5
Prof. (Dr) Mrs R MOHEE	5 out of 6



Technical Committee

Composition

The Technical Committee is a sub-committee of the Board comprising at least three members of the Board.

The Chairperson and Members of the Technical Committee are appointed by the Board.

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the composition of the Technical Committee was as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	
Prof. (Dr) Mrs R MOHEE	Commissioner, Higher Education Commission	Chairperson
Prof. (Dr) K NAIDOO (As from 08 March 2023)	Executive Director, Quality Assurance Authority	Member
Mr Y MATABUDUL	Chief Executive Officer, Polytechnics Mauritius, Representative of Registered Private Training Institutions	Member
Mr R RANDHAY	Independent Person	Member

Mr S Bhunjun, Manager Learner Attainment & Information Services acted as Secretary of the Technical Committee.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee are as follows:

- (a) To recommend policies relevant to the National Qualifications Framework
- (b) To formulate and publish policies and criteria, in respect of the technical and vocational education and training sector
- (c) Ensure compliance with provisions for registration, accreditation, approval and others
- (d) Other technical issues related to technical and vocational education and training

Frequency of Meetings

The Technical Committee meets as and when required with a quorum of at least two members and may co-opt members.

Statement of Attendance

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, fourteen (14) Technical Committee meetings were held.

The attendance of the members or their representatives at the meetings of the Technical Committee for the period 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 was as follows:-

NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS/REPRESENTATIVES	NUMBER OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED
Prof. Mrs R MOHEE	14 out of 14
Prof. (Dr) K NAIDOO (As from 08 March 2023)	3 out of 5
Mr Y MATABUDUL	6 out of 14
Mr R RANDHAY	14 out of 14

Audit and Risk Committee

Composition

The Audit and Risk Committee is a Sub-Committee of the Board comprising at least three members of the Board or their representatives where appropriate.

The Chairperson and Members of the Audit and Risk Committee are appointed by the Board.

For the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the composition of the Audit and Risk Committee was as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	
Mr Y MATABUDUL	Chief Executive Officer, Polytechnics Mauritius, Representative of Registered Private Training Institutions	Chairperson
Mr R RANDHAY	Independent Person	Member

Mr V A Ramchurn, Deputy Director acted as Secretary of the first Audit and Risk Committee meeting while Mr J Makoonlall, Administrative Officer was the Secretary for the second meeting.



Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee are as follows:

- (a) Ensure that principles of corporate governance are being observed
- (b) Consider the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control system, including information technology security and control
- (c) Ensure the risk areas of the MQA's operations are covered in the scope of the internal and external audits
- (d) Focus on any accounting or auditing concerns identified as a result of the internal or external audits
- (e) Follow up on implementation of the recommendations in the Management Letter of the National Audit Office
- (f) Ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements with regard to financial and administrative matters
- (g) Examination of the nature and extent of non-audit services provided by the external auditors, where applicable
- (h) Ensure that financial reports are published as per provisions of the MQA Act

Frequency of Meetings

The Audit and Risk Committee would meet at least twice yearly and the participation of two members constitutes the quorum.

All papers seeking approval of the Audit and Risk Committee are dispatched to the members of the Committee at least 48 hours before the Committee is scheduled to meet.

Statement of Attendance

The attendance of the members or their representatives at the meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 was as follows:-

NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS/REPRESENTATIVES	NUMBER OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED		
Mr Y MATABUDUL	2 out of 2		
Mr R RANDHAY	2 out of 2		

Principle 3: Director's Appointment Procedures

The Minister (to whom responsibility for the subject of education is assigned) appoints four Members of the Board in accordance with the MQA Act, namely the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson in consultation with Business Mauritius, a representative of registered private training institutions and an independent person, the others being ex officio members.

The profile of each Member as well as that of the Director and Secretary of the Board are as follows:

Profile of Board Members (01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)

Mr R GUTTEE is holder of a BA (Hons) in English from the University of Delhi. He has completed a
Diploma in Journalism and Uttama (Hindi Qualification). After having completed a
Certificate in General Nursing from the Ministry of Health, he started his career in
Nursing and became Charge Nurse in 1981. Mr Guttee has a rich professional

experience as follows: 1969 to 1971 and from 1980 to 1982 – Newscaster at MBC/TV; 1983 to 1987 – Director at Krishnanand Seva Ashram; 1987 to 1995 – Member of the National Assembly; 1988 to 1995 – Parliamentary Private Secretary; 1996 to 2000 – Administrative Manager at Medpoint Hospital; 2001 to 2010 – Adviser at the Ministry of Environment and NDU; and from 2010 to 2014 – Adviser at the Ministry of Arts and Culture. In the social field, Mr Guttee served as Member of the Seva Shivir; Founder Member & Secretary of the Human Service Trust; President and Secretary of Arya Sabha Mauritius; President of the Hindi

Speaking Union and General Secretary of the World Hindi Convention Mauritius

in 1994 respectively; Editor-in-Chief of two Hindi magazines; General Secretary of Arya Vedic Parishad as well as Manager of Gayasingh Ashram. He participated in various national and international conferences. He also served as Board Member of the MGI/RTI Council; Board Member of MBC/TV and on 28 August 2020 he was appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA).

Mr D RAMLUGGUN holds an MBA from the University of Technology Mauritius. He joined Business Mauritius, previously known as Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF) as Head of Training & Development and he is currently occupying the position of Head of Social Capital. Under this tenure, he is engaged with the Business Community to come up with proposals for policy options on the social capital issues which will finally lead to a paradigm shift in the current employee-employer relationship with better outcomes for all stakeholders whilst addressing the challenges of the world of work. His expertise regularly is solicited on various related Committees and he is also a Member of the Training & Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB). He was appointed as Member of the Board of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) as from 28 August 2020.

Advanced Hindi Qualifications.



Mr Y MUNBODH, Permanent Secretary reckons more than 38 years of service in the public sector. He joined the public service in 1983 and his career path started as Clerical Officer, then as Executive Officer, Establishment Officer (Personnel Cadre), Assistant Secretary (Administrative Cadre), Principal Assistant Secretary (re-styled as Deputy Permanent Secretary), Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources (December 2012 to January 2013), Secretary, Equal Opportunities Commission, Prime Minister's Office (January 2013 to May 2017), ex-Chief Executive (Town Clerk) in the local authorities in 2016 (short period), Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training (May 2017 to April 2018), Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (April 2018 to December 2020), Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division - December 2020 to 20 June 2021), Permanent Secretary with effect from 21 June 2021 (substantive appointment). Mr Munbodh holds the following qualifications: Master of Business Administration (University of Leicester, UK); Master's Diploma in Public Administration; Master's in Philosophy in Social Science Program (Punjab University and the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi); Diploma in Administration and Management (University of Technology, Mauritius); Diploma in Management (Human Resource Management - University of Mauritius); Diploma in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations (UK); Diploma in Tropical Agriculture and Agro-Forestry (University of Mauritius); Diploma in Public

Mrs I RUGJEE holds an MBA from the University of Birmingham, UK. She has wide experience in the Public Sector and is presently the Permanent Secretary of Human Resource Development and Training Division of the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training.

Relations (French), Journalism Niveaux I, II, III (Alliance Française) and

Prof. (Mrs) R MOHEE is the Higher Education Commissioner of Mauritius, whereby she is responsible for the apex body (HEC) regulating all public and private universities in Mauritius. She holds an engineering degree in Energy and Environment from a Grande École d'Ingénieurs, the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon, France, (under a French Scholarship) and a PhD from the University of Mauritius. Mrs Mohee has 27 years of academic experience as a Professor and Head of Department in the field of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, as well as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 2009 to 2012 and Vice Chancellor of the national University from 2013 to 2016. She has also held the position of National Research Chair in Solid Waste Management at the Mauritius Research Council. Prof Mohee is an experienced Education Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the development of higher education specialist and has assisted many Commonwealth member states in their development of higher education policies and strategies. She expertly guided

governments and institutions on e-learning for sustainable development, quality assurance and employability. She also developed an employability readiness model for Higher Education Institutions in the Commonwealth. She has published over 100 international research and conference papers, edited 2 books, 8 book chapters, and has supervised to date more than 50 undergraduate and 30 Master's and Doctoral students in the field of energy and environmental engineering. Her expertise has been recognized both at national and regional levels. She has been Vice President of the Maurice Ile Durable Steering Committee and has held the position of environmental assessor for the Environment and Land Use Tribunal. She has carried out more than 20 major consultancy projects in the field of environmental science and engineering. Professor Mohee has received a number of awards and recognitions including the winner of the African Union best woman scientist award for Science Technology and Innovation in 2009. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) and a Fellow of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (FMAST), Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers UK (F IChemE) and she is among others an Associate member of the International Association of Universities (IAU).

Prof. (Mrs) K NAIDOO was the Executive Director of the Quality Assurance Authority (QAA). For more than a decade she served as the Director of Accreditation at the Council on Higher Education (CHE) in South Africa where she led the conceptualisation of the new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) for higher education. Her quality assurance related experience is in the areas of institutional audits, accreditation, and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). She spent many years at universities in executive management responsible for portfolios of academic development, support and planning; quality assurance; equal opportunities; and counselling. She has also worked as a management consultant in the areas of higher education and business management. Her postgraduate qualifications include a DEd, MBA (cum laude), MA (Hons), BEd,

BA, UDE and Diploma in Special Education. She served on the Advisory Board of the international forum, Improving University Teaching (IUT) for more than a decade, and is currently on the Editorial Board of the international journal, Quality in Higher Education. She also served as the South African Quality Assurance ambassador on the joint AU/EU project on the Harmonisation of Quality Assurance in Africa (HAQAA) which produced the African Standards and Guidelines (ASG) on Quality Assurance.

Mr S MAUDARBOCUS holds a degree in Civil Engineering and is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers, Mauritius. He also holds an MSc in Engineering Project Management. He has been in employment at the ex-IVTB/MITD since July 1992. During the period of review, he was acting as Director at the Mauritius Institute of Training & Development (MITD).



Mr Y MATABUDUL is the Chief Executive Officer of Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, a skills-based tertiary education institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. He cumulates more than 15 years of work experience in the higher education and training sector. Yamal has been part of senior management at various private educational institutions including Business Mauritius (previously Mauritius Employers' Federation), TetraNergy, Oceana International Business School and General Manager of Education at Medine Education Village. Yamal has also acted as Project Manager for the Ministry of Education on TVET and Polytechnics and Consultant for The World Bank, African Development Bank and Save the Children. Yamal holds a Master's in Higher Education from the University of Oxford, a Master's in Public

Policy from SOAS, a Diploma in International Business and a BSc in Physics from McGill University.

Mr R RANDHAY holds a B Ed from the University of Delhi and a BA from Allahabad, India. He is also holder of the Teachers' Training College Certificate. He started his career in the education sector as Primary School Teacher and subsequently was tutoring at the Teachers' Training College. He then worked as Education Officer in different State Secondary Schools and afterwards joined the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) where he climbed the ladder until serving as Principal Examinations Officer. Mr Randhay acted as Secretary of the committee instituted to reform the Structure of Secondary Schools System. He later became a Board Member of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate. Mr Randhay has a wide experience in the education sector and since 28 August 2020, he started serving as Board member of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA).

In Attendance

Director of MQA

Dr R PHOOLCHUND was the Director of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA). He holds a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Business Administration with a Postgraduate in Human Resource Development and a Doctorate. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius. After graduating from University, Dr Phoolchund worked as an Engineer successively in the manufacturing and services sector before joining the former Industrial and Vocational Training Board (IVTB), now the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD), where he held office as Training Centre Manager and subsequently as Divisional Manager, Quality Assurance. When MQA was created in 2002, Dr Phoolchund joined as the Deputy Director & Registrar. In 2009/10, he was the Director of the 'Espace des Métiers' (EDM) under the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF).

Secretary to MQA Board

Mr V A RAMCHURN was Deputy Director at the MQA. In this capacity, he has been serving as Secretary of the MQA Board in addition to being Chairperson of the Recognition and Equivalence Committee. He is the holder of the following qualifications: Bachelor (Hons) of Technology in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering Project Management from the University of Mauritius as well as an Executive Master of Business Administration from Birla Institute, India. He was also serving as Chairperson of the National Heritage Fund.





Following the departure of Mr V A Ramchurn on leave without pay, **Dr R RAMDASS**, Manager Quality Assurance was assigned the duties of the Deputy Director with effect from 31 January 2023 and as such he cumulated the function of Secretary to the MQA Board. He has a working experience of nearly three decades in TVET and is the holder of a B Tech (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering, MBA with distinction and a PhD.



Principle 4: Directors' Duties, Remuneration and Performance

Pursuant to Section7(4) of the MQA Act, every member shall be paid from the General Fund such remuneration and allowances as the Minister may determine. The Chairperson of MQA Board as well as Chairperson and Members of the Sub-Committees of the Board are paid a fee in accordance with the recommendations of the PRB Report.

Statement of Remuneration of Board Members

The fees paid to each Board Member and Alternate Members as well as Co-opted Members is disclosed in the Statement of Remuneration of Board Members.

The remuneration for Board Members and Representatives for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 was as follows:

SN	NAME OF BOARD MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES	BOARD MEETING	F&P COMMITTEE	HR COMMITTEE	TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	TOTAL
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1	Mr R Guttee	421,350	-	-	-	-	421,350
2	Mr D Ramluggun	16,000	14,695	-	-	-	30,695
3	Mr Y Munbodh	18,000	6,600	11,000	4,425	1,005	41,030
4	Mrs S Lotun	4,000	8,300	-	-	-	12,300
5	Mrs S Gowrydoss	4,000	10,810	8,230	-		23,040
6	Mrs I Rugjee	6,000	-	1,700	-	-	7,700
7	Mr P Pirthee	12,000	-	6,800	-	-	18,800
8	Mr S M Surat	2,000	-	3,540	-	-	5,540
9	Prof. (Mrs) R Mohee	22,000		12,925	41,735	-	76,660
10	Prof. (Mrs) K Naidoo	8,000	-	-	5,100	-	13,100
11	Mr S Maudarbocus	24,000	20,680	-	<u> </u>	-	44,680
12	Mr Y Matabudul	10,000	-	-	12,855	5,285	28,140
13	Mr R Randhay	24,000	-	885	34,660	4,285	63,830
14	Mr D Conhye	-	-	-	885	-	885
15	Mrs S Motala-Timol	-	-	885	885	-	1,770
16	Mrs N O S Hosany	-	885	-	-	-	885
17	Mr V A Putchay	-	3015	2,010	-	-	5,025
18	Mr A Bhantoo	-	-	1,770	-	-	1,770
19	Mr P Sadien	-	-	7,080	-	-	7,080
то	TAL	571,350	64,985	56,825	100,545	10,575	804,280

Conflict of Interest

Whenever a Member of the Board or Sub-Committee of the Board faces a conflict of interest regarding certain issues discussed, the Member withdraws from the Meeting and does not participate in the decision taken. This is recorded in the minutes of proceedings.

Anti-Corruption policy

An Anti-Corruption Committee had been set up at the MQA in line with the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework as developed by the ICAC. The Anti-Corruption Committee formulated an anti-corruption policy that was approved by the Board.

Principle 5: Risk Governance and Internal Control

The MQA Board had approved in the past that the Ministry of Finance as well the parent Ministry be approached to carry out internal control exercises at the Authority from time to time instead of recruiting an Internal Auditor and same had been done on two occasions. In addition, the Audit and Risk Committee also looks into the risk areas of the MQA's operations.

Directors' Statement for Internal Control

The Board of the MQA confirms its responsibility for the setting up of an effective internal control system implying that the MQA generates reliable financial reporting and substantially complies with the laws and regulations that apply to it and also for providing reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of its objectives.

The following internal control activities are in place at the MQA:

- Segregation of duties duties are segregated among different people to reduce the risk of error or inappropriate action. Normally, responsibilities for authorizing transactions, recording transactions (accounting), and handling the related asset (custody) are divided.
- Authorization of transactions review of particular transactions by an appropriate person.
- Management authorizes employees to perform certain activities and to execute certain transactions
 within limited parameters. In addition, management specifies those activities or transactions that
 need supervisory approval before they are performed or executed by employees. A supervisor's
 approval (manual or electronic) implies that he or she has verified and validated that the activity
 or transaction conforms to established policies and procedures.
- Retention of records maintaining documentation to substantiate transactions.
- Supervision or monitoring of operations observation or review of ongoing operational activity.
- Physical safeguards usage of cameras, locks, physical barriers, etc. to protect assets and property of MQA. In addition, access to equipment, inventories, securities, cash and other assets is restricted.
- Top-level reviews analysis of actual results versus organizational goals or plans, periodic and regular operational reviews and other key performance indicators (KPIs).



- IT Security usage of passwords, access logs, etc. to ensure access restricted to authorized personnel.
- Controls over information processing A variety of control activities are used in information processing. Examples include edit checks of data entered, accounting for transactions in numerical sequences, comparing file totals with control accounts, and controlling access to data, files and programs.

R GUTTEE Chairperson D RAMLUGGUN Board Member

Principle 6: Reporting with Integrity

The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 fairly present the state of affairs of the MQA and the results of its operation and comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). In addition, the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted in preparing the accounts. The Annual Report is submitted to the parent Ministry for onward transmission to the National Assembly and is also published on the MQA's Website.

Health and Safety

Regarding health and safety issues, the MQA complies with the existing legislative and regulatory frameworks. Each year, an officer from the Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training carries out an inspection at the MQA and submits his/her observations. Corrective measures are taken to resolve any shortcomings identified.

Principle 7: Audit

The Audit and Risk Committee has been set up to ensure that principles of corporate governance are being observed and to consider the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control system, including information technology security and control amongst others.

Besides, an internal audit exercise at the MQA is carried out from time to time by the Internal Auditors from the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Education for the execution of an internal audit exercise to recommend on improvement on all processes in line with the principles of good corporate governance.

In addition, the accounts of the MQA are audited by the National Audit Office on a yearly basis from Q1 July of the past year until 30 June of the following year.

Principle 8: Relation with Shareholders and Other Key Stakeholders

A representative of key stakeholders forms part of the composition of the Board and the MQA also organises workshops on policy matters and strategic direction in accordance with its mandate whereby all stakeholders are invited to participate. Moreover, the MQA has the collaboration of relevant stakeholders in the preparation of specific policies for the organisation.

Related Party Transaction

Mr S Maudarbocus, Acting Director at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) was a member (ex officio) of the MQA Board as well as a member of the Finance and Procurement Committee during the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The MITD is a registered Training Institution with the MQA.

Mr Y Matabudul was the representative of Registered Private Training Institutions on the Board of the MQA. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Polytechnics Mauritius which is a registered Training Institution with the MQA. He was a member of the MQA Board and also chaired the Audit and Risk Committee of the MQA during the period under review.

Related party transactions were carried out at commercial terms and conditions.



MQA ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Achievements & Activities of the MQA in 2022-2023

Embracing the Digital Transformation

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) has always been at the forefront of embracing technological innovations to better serve its stakeholders and streamline its internal processes. The 2022-2023 fiscal year marked a significant leap in MQA's digital journey with the full implementation of the Integrated Information System (IIS).

After rigorous phases of planning, development, and testing, the IIS went live on 15 September 2022. This state-of-the-art system integrates various functions and modules, making it easier for both MQA staff and MQA stakeholders to engage, transact, and access information. The implementation of IIS underscores MQA commitment to improve efficiency, transparency, and user-friendliness in its services.

The Non-Award Courses submodule was successfully integrated and went live on 10 May 2023. The addition aims to provide a comprehensive platform for stakeholders to navigate, apply for, and manage non-award courses, thereby enriching the suite of services offered through the IIS.

Registration of Training Institutions

During the period under review, **53** new Training Institutions were registered by the MQA and **114** Training Institutions were granted renewal of registration. These training institutions operate both in Mauritius and in Rodrigues. They would have to meet strict requirements in accordance with all the criteria specified in the Authority's Quality Assurance Framework. From 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, Quality Audit was conducted in 167 Training Institutions.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	NUMBER (July 2022 to June 2023)
Training Institutions Registered (New)	53
Renewal of Registration of Training Institutions	114
Quality Audit conducted in Training Institutions	167



Accreditation of Award Programmes

In the year 2022/2023, **167** new training programmes were accredited while as at 30 June 2023, **189** valid accredited training programmes were run by some **39** Training Institutions.

Accreditation of an award programme is a multi-step activity, all of which is defined in the Quality Assurance Framework of the Authority. The outcome of the programme is the award of a certificate to successful candidates after a formal assessment exercise. This certificate is recognized as formal learning achievement. Award programmes are pitched on specific levels of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), enabling students to find their learning pathway, should they want to study further.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	NUMBER (July 2022-June 2023)
Training Programmes Accredited	167
Valid Accredited Training Programmes until 30 June 2023	189
Training Institutions delivering Accredited Training Programmes as at 30 June 2023	39

Approval of Non-Award Courses

The MQA also deals with applications for the approval of short courses, commonly termed as 'Non-Award Courses'. These are generally awareness courses, without any formal assessment of the learning achieved, and usually culminate with the issue of a Certificate of Attendance. Non-Award courses can be dispensed by duly MQA registered Training Institutions, and companies or they can be run in-house subject to prior approval of the said courses by the Authority.

The request for approval of Non-Award Courses has been constant at the Authority, with **411** such courses approved for Employers and **2,952** for Training Institutions during the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Quality Assurance Framework

The MQA has developed the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) for the TVET sector in Mauritius in order to have an integrated set of policies, procedures, rules, criteria, tools and verification instruments and mechanisms that together will ensure and improve the quality provided by MQA registered and accredited Training Institutions. The QAF has been developed in line with international norms with a view to better regulating the education and training sector.

New application forms for registration of Training Institution and programme accreditation have therefore been redesigned.

With a view to easing the implementation of the QAF, the MQA has worked out Guidelines for the Quality Audit to be carried out at those registered Training Institutions, based on seven Quality Principles, namely:

- (i) Quality Management
- (ii) Management of Responsibilities
- (iii) Resource Management
- (iv) Design, Development and Revision of Learning Programme
- (v) Teaching, Training and Learning
- (vi) Assessment and Certification of Learning
- (vii) Evaluation and Improvement of Quality.

The Guidelines will help Training Institutions in implementing QAF within their institutions. In addition, a Code of Practice for Learner Guidance and Support has been worked out to support learners enrolling on programmes. Furthermore, following amendments brought to the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) Act 2001, the Authority was entrusted with the function of approval of Non-Award courses.

With a view to adhering to regulations in place, a set of implementing tools and guidelines have been implemented namely (i) Guidelines for Accreditation of Training Programme for Training Institutions (ii) Guidelines for Approval of Non-Award course for Training Institutions and (iii) Guidelines for Approval of Non-Award courses for Employers.

Statistics on Complaints, Illegal Training & Court Cases

During the year 2022/2023, fifteen (15) complaints against Training Institutions were lodged and seven (7) cases of illegal training were reported to the Authority.

Out of the twenty-two (22) complaints handled by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, one (1) was related to refund issues, nine (9) to training delivery, three (3) to issuance of certificate/testimonial, one (1) to the conduct of examinations and one (1) was with regard to cessation of operation at registered address.

The seven (7) cases of illegal training were related to unauthorised training and were reported to police for necessary actions.

Court Cases

MQA Officers attended Court for the following cases:

- "Police" vs "Rahul Informatics Rep by Praveen Kumar Sharma" (twice in attendance)
- "Police" vs "Miss Arianne Marie Tursan D'Espaignet École (Mauricienne) du bien-être Itée" (twice in attendance)
- "Bowanee" vs "Fowdar" (once in attendance)
- "ICAC" vs "D Sobhee"- (twice in attendance)
- "ICAC" vs "Oodaye Kumar Lungut" (four times in attendance)



Cancellation of Registration as Training Institution

On 03 November 2022, the registration as training institution of "The Cole Vocational School Limited" was cancelled.

Appeal

One case of appeal was lodged by "The Cole Vocational School Limited" to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology and same is still under process at the level of the Appeal Committee.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is the acknowledgement through evaluation of a person's skills and knowledge acquired through previous training, work or life experience, which may be used to grant credit/s for module/s or unit standard/s.

On a biannual basis, expression of interest adverts are published to invite people with a minimum of three years of working experience in various sectors of the Mauritian economy, but who do not have any formal qualification, to show interest to undergo RPL.

An RPL Communication plan has also been developed to bring more awareness about the RPL benefits and support scheme among the public and stakeholders. The plan highlights key actions that can be implemented in the short and medium term to reach out to potential RPL candidates.

A Capacity Building Workshop for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Facilitator was thus held on 24 & 25 November 2022 and with a view to broadening access to valued qualifications through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Support Scheme, a Workshop was held on 23 March 2023 at the Landscope Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ébène Cybercity.

Recognition and Equivalence

MQA, being entrusted with the responsibility to cater for the Recognition and Equivalence of qualifications in the Technical and Vocational sector, has in 2022/2023 dealt with one hundred and seven (107) cases of recognition and two (2) cases of equivalence of qualifications. These applications are mainly from Governmental Institutions, Employers, and recruiting agents as well as from the General Public for the purpose of employment and further studies. The qualifications are generally from overseas.

The MQA liaises with competent Authorities/Agencies in the country of origin in the process of determining recognition and equivalence of qualifications.

Contribution towards Areas of Cooperation and Agreements with Other Countries

Various inputs related to TVET have been provided to the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, with a view to updating the brief on the country and also in relevant working

documents, namely in the context of existing and proposed areas of cooperation between Mauritius and other countries (Tunisia, Namibia, Asian countries, Azerbaijan, Australia, Germany, Madagascar, Dar-es-Salaam, Republic of Korea, Tanzania), for proposal on cooperation and agreements.

Collaboration from Vocational Education and Training (VET) Toolbox

In January 2022, MQA obtained the support and collaboration from VET (Vocational Education and Training) Toolbox which is a partnership of leading European development agencies, including British Council (UK), Enabel (Belgium), Expertise France (France), GIZ (Germany), LuxDev (Luxembourg) and AFD (France) to implement a project for the development of a 'Quality Assurance Guidelines for the design and delivery of online training programmes in TVET institutions'.

Two consultants, namely Mrs Clara Duffy and Mrs Olga Kelly from South West College (SWC), UK were appointed by British Council for intervention and they had an in-country visit in Mauritius from 22-26 August 2022. Their visit to Mauritius comprised inter alia working sessions with MQA technical staff held on 22 August 2022, three focus group discussions with trainers, learners and Managers of Training Institutions held on 23 August 2022 and an official launch of VET Toolbox Project on "Development of Quality Assurance Guidelines for Design and Delivery of Online Training (TVET)" held on 24 August 2022 at Hennessy Park Hotel followed by two capacity building workshops with trainers.

After the finalisation of findings/recommendations, "Guidelines for effective design and delivery of online training programmes" was developed and same has been made available for consultation by TVET Training Institutions.

Virtual Study Tour

The MQA provided its support and expertise on a virtual study tour on Recognition of Prior Learning to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, Republic of Ghana.

The online meeting was held on 08 September 2022 and MQA's intervention was mainly focused on the administration and implementation of RPL in the country. Around sixty-five Ghanaian potential RPL practitioners (officials from Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET), TVET providers and industry people, etc. participated in the exercise.

The exercise was an initiative of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The organisers, including the participants were very much appreciative of the support provided and they have expressed their commitment to continue working and exchanging with MQA.



Quality Assurance in the Implementation of National Employment Schemes

MQA has acted as the Quality Assurance agency in the implementation of different employment schemes viz. "National Skills Development Programme - NSDP", "Graduate Training for Employment Scheme - GTES", "National Training and Re-skilling Scheme - NTRS" and "Youth Employment Programme - YEP", managed by the HRDC, MITD and the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training.

Participation in the High-Powered Committee in relation to Scholarships to Children from Vulnerable Families and to Learners with Disabilities

MQA is a core member in the "High Powered Committee" set up at the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, to give clearance on regulatory aspects of Schemes related to (i) Scholarships to Children from Vulnerable Families and (ii) Scholarships to Learners with Disabilities.

National Skills Development Strategy

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) with the technical and financial support of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) developed a National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) 2022-2026. During the formulation of NSDS and action plan, the MQA was a core member in a Steering Committee which was also set up to drive the project.

An NSDS Working Committee was set up at the Authority to discuss on the actions earmarked in the strategy and accordingly, five clusters were identified as follows:

- The National Qualifications Framework
- Quality Assurance Framework for TVET at Higher Education
- Credit System for TVET and Higher Education sector
- Development of Occupational and Qualification Standard
- The implementation of Micro-credentials

Following the approval of NSDS (2022-2026) by the Government, a Strategic Implementation Committee (SIC) was set up at the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training to coordinate, drive and oversee the implementation of the strategies/actions of the whole NSDS. The MQA as an implementing agent of the NSDS is a core member of the SIC and has accordingly participated in its various meetings. In line with the National Skills Development Strategy (2022-2026), roadmaps were developed for each of the above-mentioned clusters by respective sub-committees.

On 23 May 2023, a half-day workshop was organised to validate a consolidated roadmap englobing the above five clusters. The validated consolidated roadmap was finalised during the workshop. The implementation of the strategic actions are underway.

Events during the Period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

NCD and Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening at MQA

In the wake of the MQA's 20th anniversary celebrations, a free medical check-up was carried out by the Ministry of Health and Wellness at the seat of the Authority in Phoenix on 16 August 2022. The non-communicable diseases (NCD) screening comprised Height, Weight and Waist Measurement (Body Mass Index), Blood Pressure Measurement, Blood Test for Glucose, Vision Tests, Consultation by Medical Officer, Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening and ECG Test.





Official Launching of VET Toolbox Project

An official launching of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Toolbox Project on "Development of Quality Assurance Guidelines for Design and Delivery of Online Training (TVET)" was held on 24 August 2022 at Hennessy Park Hotel followed by two capacity building workshops with trainers.

Conduct of Anti-Corruption Empowerment Sessions for MQA Staff

Two anti-corruption empowerment sessions for staff of the MQA were organized in two batches in the Lecture Theatre of ICAC Headquarters, Réduit Triangle, Moka on 21 and 23 September 2022 from 14 00 hrs to 15 30 hrs.

The aim of the empowerment sessions was to enable officers of the MQA to have a comprehensive understanding of corruption, ethics and integrity as well as having a meaningful discussion on their engagement in the fight against corruption.

The content of the presentation included, amongst others, an overview of corruption and corruption offences, channels for reporting corruption, implementation of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework (PSACF), ethical conduct and integrity as antidotes to corruption and the role and responsibilities of public officials in reinforcing public sector integrity.





FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



R ORT OF THE

I RECTOR OF AUDIT

O he Financial Statements of e Mauritius Qualifications Authority for e year ended 30 June 2023

ATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE.





NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE MAURITIUS QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

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 Mauritius Qualifications Authority in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, 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. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. I have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in my report.

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to:

 The General Fund in the statement of financial position which showed a deficit of Rs 50 million as of 30 June 2023 as compared to a deficit of Rs 43.9 million as of 30 June 2022. Note 2.8 to the financial statements concerning increase in pension liability from Rs 41.9 million as of 30 June 2022 to Rs 51.9 million as of 30 June 2023.

My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, 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 IPSASs, 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 Mauritius Qualifications Authority'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 for overseeing the Mauritius Qualifications Authority's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 control.
- 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 Mauritius Qualifications Authority'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 Mauritius Qualifications Authority'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 Mauritius Qualifications Authority 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.

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or, when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management's Responsibilities for Compliance

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the Mauritius Qualifications Authority's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations,

including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, I am also responsible to report to the Board whether:

- (a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
- (b) the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;
- (c) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, any expenditure incurred is of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;
- (d) in my opinion, the Mauritius Qualifications Authority has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively; and
- (e) the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process have been complied with.

I performed procedures, including the assessment of the risks of material non-compliance, to obtain audit evidence to discharge the above responsibilities.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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.

As far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records:

- (a) the Mauritius Qualifications Authority has complied with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act; and
- (b) no direction relating to the accounts has been issued by the responsible Minister to the Mauritius Qualifications Authority.

Based on my examination of the records of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that:

- (a) expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence; and
- (b) the Authority has not applied its resources and carried out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively.



Public Procurement Act

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

DR D. PALIGADU Director of Audit

National Audit Office Level 14 Air Mauritius Centre PORT LOUIS

5 June 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	4	725,270	535,475
Car loan receivable	5	690,463	1,457,905
Cash and cash equivalents	6	6,028,624	6,992,618
Work-in-Progress	7	12,714,777	7,204,319
		20,159,134	16,190,317
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	6,323,992	6,519,690
Intangible assets	8	449,054	-
Long term car loan receivable	5	668,474	2,073,937
		7,441,520	8,593,627
Total Assets		27,600,654	24,783,944
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	2,718,464	2,285,984
Employee benefit obligations	10	1,730,021	1,700,728
Car loan payable	11	690,463	1,457,905
		5,138,948	5,444,617
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefit obligations	2.8, 10	71,796,957	61,188,783
Car loan payable	11	668,474	2,073,937
		72,465,431	63,262,721
Total Liabilities		77,604,379	68,707,338
Net Liabilities		(50,003,726)	(43,923,393)
EQUITY			
General fund	12	(50,003,726)	(43,923,394)
Total Equity		(50,003,726)	(43,923,394)
The Notes to the Accounts on pages 57 to 71 form part of the final	ncial statements.		
These Financial Statements have been approved by the Board on a	20 October 2023 and s	igned on its behalf by:	
Mr D Ramluggun, Board Member			

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
REVENUE			
Non-Exchange Transactions	13	29,718,092	35,354,116
Exchange Transactions	14	17,579,501	15,688,204
Total Revenue		47,297,593	51,042,320
EXPENSES			
Operating expenses	15	38,138,167	39,646,663
Administrative expenses	16	8,005,285	7,743,146
Finance costs	17	60,721	48,423
		46,204,173	47,438,232
Profit for the year		1,093,420	3,604,088

The Notes to the Accounts on pages 57 to 71 form part of the financial statements.



Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

	General Fund Rs
Balance as at 01 July 2021	(40,887,614)
Employee Benefits Obligation Adjustments	(6,566,215)
Debts written off	(73,653)
Profit for the period July 2021 to June 2022	3,604,088
Balance as at 30 June 2022	(43,923,394)
	General Fund Rs
Balance as at 01 July 2022	
Balance as at 01 July 2022 Employee Benefits Obligation Adjustments	Rs
	Rs (43,923,394)
Employee Benefits Obligation Adjustments	Rs (43,923,394) (8,345,070)
Employee Benefits Obligation Adjustments Employee Benefits Obligation - Past service liability	(43,923,394) (8,345,070) 1,076,340

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
Cash flows from operating activities		
Deficit for the year	1,093,420	3,604,088
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,965,320	2,145,860
Employee benefit obligations and Prior year adjustments	(7,173,752)	(6,639,868)
	(4,115,011)	(889,920)
(Increase)/decrease in accounts receivable	(3,527,348)	4,584,120
Increase/(decrease) in employee benefit obligations	10,637,466	8,443,711
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable	(1,740,425)	(1,009,301)
Cash generated/(absorbed) from operations	1,254,682	11,128,610
Interest paid	(177,514)	(178,711)
Interest received	177,514	178,711
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from operating activities	1,254,682	11,128,610
Cash flows from investing activities		ATC
Purchase of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets	(2,218,676)	(6,132,743)
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,218,676)	(6,132,743)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Car loan received	-	805,350
Car loan disbursed	-	(805,350)
Net cash from financing activities	-	<u> </u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(963,994)	4,995,867
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	6,992,618	1,996,751
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	6,028,624	6,992,618

The Cash Flow Statement was prepared using the indirect method.

Cash and cash equivalents consist of Cash at Bank and Cash in Hand as disclosed at Note 6.

All assets acquired were financed by capital grant received from the Government.



Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts For the year ended 30 June 2023

	i or the ye					
Item	Budgeted	amounts	Actual	Actual	Variances	Comments
rtem	Original	Revised	Amounts	Variances	Comments	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs		
Income						
Recurrent						
Opening balance	1,717,400	1,717,400	-	1,717,400		
Income from fees	14,000,000	15,000,000	17,487,500	(2,487,500)	Provision for increase due to approval for Non-Award courses being under the purview of MQA as from 15/10/2021 and increase in fees charge	
Government grant	30,000,000	26,993,742	24,594,385	2,399,357	Decrease in grant due to increase in fees generated	
Other income	-	-	92,002	(92,002)	Income received for hosting virtual tour on RPL and Sale of laptop	
Total	45,717,400	43,711,142	42,173,887	1,537,255		
Capital						
Government grant	8,000,000	8,000,000	5,123,707	2,876,293		
Total	8,000,000	8,000,000	5,123,707	2,876,293		
		2				
Total Income	53,717,400	51,711,142	47,297,594	4,413,548		
Expenditure						
Recurrent						
Salary	21,756,000	20,570,999	19,814,923	756,075	Vacant positions not yet filled	
Allowances	400,000	450,000	389,794	60,206		
End of year bonus	1,700,000	1,647,943	1,648,768	(825)		
Gratuity/annual leaves refund	-	-	-	-		

lkom	Budgeted	amounts	Actual	Varionasa	Commonto
Item	Original	Revised	Amounts	Variances	Comments
Sick leave	1,700,000	1,000,000	1,013,435	(13,435)	
Travelling & transport	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,049,809	450,191	Actual claims paid
Overtime	140,000	150,000	152,578	(2,578)	
Staff welfare	50,000	60,000	44,787	15,213	
Passage benefits	800,000	1,200,000	760,914	439,086	Payment in accordance with actual claims received
Family Protection Scheme/National Pension Fund/Medical insurance contributions	1,000,000	985,000	918,616	66,384	
Contribution Sociale Généralisée	1,450,000	1,550,000	1,442,184	107,816	Vacant positions not yet filled and staff on leave without pay
Pension	2,625,000	2,600,000	2,377,791	222,209	Vacant positions not yet filled and staff on leave without pay
Total staff costs	35,121,000	33,713,942	31,613,600	2,100,342	
Telephone bills	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,097,544	202,456	Bills for the month of June 2023 received in July 2023
Rental of building and related charges	3,656,200	3,697,200	3,989,716	(292,516)	Rental and charges paid for 13 months from June 2022 to June 2023
Postage	10,000	25,000	20,442	4,558	Saving due to increase in digital correspondences
Cleaning materials	50,000	60,000	44,097	15,903	
Office sundries	250,200	200,000	170,223	29,777	
Maintenance - buildings	215,000	175,000	124,494	50,506	No major repairs were carried out
Insurance - fire and allied perils, employers liability, group personal accident, public liability, etc.	140,000	250,000	236,478	13,522	
Maintenance and insurance of vehicles	150,000	180,000	130,516	49,484	No major repairs were carried out
Maintenance - furniture, office & IT equipment	2,100,000	975,000	838,743	136,257	No major repairs were carried out



	Budgeted amounts		Actual		
Item	Original	Revised	Amounts	Variances	Comments
Stationeries, printing and publications	250,000	325,000	173,219	151,781	Claim for Annual Report for FY 2020/2021 paid in July 2023
Books and periodicals, Magazine and Newspapers	25,000	25,000	19,140	5,860	
Advertising & Publicity	125,000	200,000	-	200,000	A. A.
Mission expenses	150,000	150,000	68,239	81,761	
Fees to Chairman and members of Board and Committees	900,000	900,000	1,264,505	(364,505)	Payment in arrears following increase in fees
Fees for training	200,000	250,000	58,670	191,330	
Audit fees	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	
Legal and professional fees	240,000	240,000	176,800	63,200	Provision for legal charges not materialised
Consultancy Fees	200,000	175,000	-	175,000	Services of Project Manager no longer required
Hospitality and ceremonies	60,000	95,000	82,007	12,993	
Seminar and workshops	400,000	600,000	107,761	492,239	Workshops to be organised in FY 2023/2024
International membership	75,000	75,000	66,414	8,586	
Total Goods and Services	10,596,400	9,997,200	8,769,008	1,228,192	
Total	45,717,400	43,711,142	40,382,608	3,328,534	
Capital					
Acquisition of assets	8,000,000	8,000,000	5,144,763	2,855,237	Cancellation of Tender exercise for acquisition of IT equipment
Total	8,000,000	8,000,000	5,144,763	2,855,237	
Total Expenditure	53,717,400	51,711,142	45,527,371	6,183,771	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 30 June 2023

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) situated at Pont Fer, Phoenix, was established as a corporate body under the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001 and came into operation in May 2002.

The Authority operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.

The objects of the MQA are:

- (a) to develop, implement and maintain a National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) to ensure compliance with provisions for registration and accreditation of Training Institutions; and
- (c) to ensure that standards and registered qualifications are internationally comparable.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Board (IPSASB) which is a Board of the International Federation of Accountants Committee (IFAC). Where an IPSAS does not address a particular issue, the appropriate International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and International Accounting Standards (IASB) of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are applied.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis and on the accrual basis of accounting. The measurement base applied is historical cost.

The financial statements have been prepared for the 12 months ended 30 June 2023 with comparative figures for the 12 months ended 30 June 2022.

The financial statements are presented in Mauritian Rupees.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

2.2 Standards Issued but not yet Effective

New and revised Standards that have been issued but not yet effective as at 30 June 2023 are either not relevant to the Authority's operations or do not have material impact on the accounting policies and disclosures of the financial statements ended 30 June 2023.



2.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated in the Statement of Financial Position at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method on the following bases:

	Rate (%)
Office Equipment	20
Furniture and Fittings	10
Hardware	25
Software	25
Motor Vehicles	10

Hardware are capitalized and depreciated over the economic useful life which has been estimated at 4 years except for hardware acquired for the Integrated Information System which has been depreciated over an economic useful life of 5 years.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Depreciation is charged in full in the month following acquisition and no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

The amount of outstanding contractual commitment for the computerisation of the Non-Award Courses, Authorisation of Change and Post-Compliance Modules, as at 30 June 2023, was Rs 1,470,977/-.

2.4 Trade Receivables

Trade receivables are stated at their nominal value. The carrying amount of trade receivables is reduced when a trade receivable is uncollectible.

2.5 Accounts Payable

Accounts payables are stated at their nominal value.

2.6 Car Loans

Car loans are disbursed to the MQA by the parent Ministry on applications by eligible employees as part of their conditions of service. The loans are executed by way of a registered agreement between the MQA and the employees. The car loans which bear an interest of 4% or 3% per annum are repayable monthly over a period of five to seven years. The balances of principal amounts are shown as short-term and long-term loans.

Corresponding carrying amounts are shown under receivables.

2.7 Grants

All government grants received are treated in line with IPSAS 23 "Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers)" and are recognized as Non-Exchange transactions in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which the transfer becomes binding.

2.8 Employee Benefits

(i) Defined Benefits Pension Plan

The Authority makes provision for retirement benefits in respect of all employees who are on establishment under the Statutory Bodies Pension Act. The MQA Staff Pension Fund is a defined benefit plan and its assets are managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius (SICOM) Ltd. The cost of providing the benefit is determined in accordance with an actuarial review.

As from 01 July 2018, IPSAS 39 is applicable for pension benefits.

The plan is a defined benefit arrangement for the employees, and it is a funded plan. The assets of the funded plan are held independently and administered by SICOM Ltd.

The defined benefit pension plan for the Authority is based on the report submitted by SICOM Ltd as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023.

	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
Amount recognised in the statement of financial position at end of year:		
Defined benefit obligation	110,101,300	94,116,613
Fair value of plan assets	(58,220,608)	(52,190,478)
Liability recognised in statement of financial position at end of year:	51,880,692	41,926,135
Amounts recognised in statement of financial performance:		
Current service cost	3,572,038	3,661,308
Employee Contributions	(1,080,313)	(1,165,488)
Fund expenses	173,333	157,228
Net Interest expense/(revenue)	2,181,396	1,634,336
P&L charge	4,846,454	4,287,384
Remeasurement		
Liability (gain)/loss	8,272,723	3,539,458
Asset (gain)/loss	72,347	3,026,757
Net Assets/Equity (NAE)	8,345,070	6,566,215
Total	13,191,524	10,853,599



	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
Movements in liability recognised in statement of financial position:		
At start of year	41,926,135	33,403,511
Amount recognized in statement of financial performance	4,846,454	4,287,384
(Past service liability contribution)	(1,076,340)	-
Contributions paid by employer	(2,160,626)	(2,330,975)
Amount recognized in NAE	8,345,070	6,566,215
At end of year	51,880,692	41,926,135
	Year ended 30 June 2023 Rs	Year ended 30 June 2022 Rs
Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation		1.0
Present value of obligation at start of period	94,116,613	84,591,895
Current service cost	3,572,038	3,661,308
Interest Cost	5,148,673	4,229,595
Benefits paid	(1,008,747)	(1,905,643)
Liability (gain)/loss	8,272,723	3,539,458
Present value of obligation at end of period	110,101,300	94,116,613
Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	52,190,478	51,188,384
Expected return on plan assets	2,967,277	2,595,259
Employer contributions	2,160,626	2,330,975
Employee contributions	1,080,313	1,165,488
Past service liability contribution	1,076,340	_
Benefits paid + other outgo	(1,182,080)	(2,062,871)
Asset gain/(loss)	(72,347)	(3,026,757)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	58,220,608	52,190,478

Distribution of plan assets at end of period

Percentage of assets at end of period	June 2023	June 2022
Fixed Interest Securities and Cash	53.9%	58.0%
Loans	2.8%	2.9%
Local equities	14.0%	13.6%
Overseas bonds and equities	28.8%	25.0%
Property	0.5%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity

Percentage of assets at end of year	30 June 2023 %	30 June 2022 %
Assets held in the entity's own financial instruments	0	0
Property occupied by the entity	0	0
Other assets used by the entity	0	0

Components of the amount recognized in NAE

	June 2023 Rs	June 2022 Rs
Asset experience gain/(loss) during the period	(72,347)	(3,026,757)
Liability experience gain/(loss) during the period	(8,272,723)	(3,539,458)
	(8,345,070)	(6,566,215)

Year 2023/2024

Expected employer contributions 2,248,886

Weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation (calculated as a % change in PV of liabilities for a 1% change in discount rate)

The plan is exposed to actuarial risks such as: investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk and salary risk. The risk relating to death in service benefits is re-insured.

The cost of providing the benefits is determined using the Projected Unit Method. The principal assumptions used for the purpose of the actuarial valuation were as follows:

17 years



	Year ending 30 June 2023	Year ending 30 June 2022
Discount rate	6.03%	5.50%
Future salary increases	4.50%	3.50%
Future pension increases	3.50%	2.50%
Mortality before retirement	NIL	
Mortality in retirement	PA (90) Tables rated down by 2 years	
Retirement age	65 Years	

The discount rate is determined by reference to market yields on bonds.

Significant actuarial assumptions for determination of the defined benefit obligation are discount rate, expected salary increase and mortality. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based reasonably on possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period.

- If the discount rate would be 100 basis points (one percent) higher (lower), the defined benefit obligation would decrease by Rs 14.5 million (increase by Rs 18.4 million) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.
- If the expected salary growth would increase (decrease) by 1%, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 9.7 million (decrease by Rs 8.5 million) if all assumptions were held unchanged.
- If life expectancy would increase (decrease) by one year, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 2.4 million (decrease by Rs 2.4 million) if all assumptions were held unchanged.

In reality, one might expect interrelationships between the assumptions, especially between discount rate and expected salary increases, given that both depends to a certain extent on expected inflation rates. The analysis above abstracts from these interdependence between the assumptions.

ii) Defined Contribution Pension Plan

As from the year 2014, the SICOM Ltd is also managing a defined contribution pension scheme for the Authority whereby the rate of contribution is 12% for employer and 6% for employee.

Under the defined contribution scheme, usually the pension benefit at retirement is not known in advance as it depends on the level of contributions made which in turn depend on the salaries of each employee during his employment, the level of investment returns earned on these contributions and the cost of converting the sum built up into a pension at the time of retirement.

iii) State Plan

Contributions to the National Pension Scheme are expensed to the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they fall due.

2.9 Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Authority and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is classified between Exchange and Non-Exchange transactions.

Fees are recognised as Exchange transactions and comprise mainly the invoiced value for processing and registration of Training Institutions, Accreditation of Programmes, approval of Non-Award Courses, Recognition and Equivalence of qualifications. Revenue is recognised in the year of receipt for registration of Training Institutions for which the validity for registration is granted for 3 years.

2.10 General Fund

It is the Authority's policy to transfer any surplus or deficit for the year to the General Fund.

2.11 Contingent Liabilities

Provision for contingent liabilities arising from pending litigations against the Authority for the period under review has not been recognized in the statement of financial position as settlement is uncertain and not probable.

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

A description of the various risks to which the Authority is exposed is shown below as well as the approach taken by management to control and mitigate those risks.

3.1 Credit Risk

The Authority's activities expose it to financial credit risk. This is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. There is no significant concentration of credit risk with exposure spread to a large number of customers. The Authority has policies in place to ensure that credit facilities are given to customers with an appropriate credit history.

3.2 Operational Risk Management

Operational risk, which is inherent in all organisations' activities, is the risk for financial loss and business instability arising from failures in internal controls, operational processes or the system that supports them. It is recognised that such risks can never be entirely eliminated and the costs of controls in minimising these risks may outweigh the potential benefits.



3.3 Legal risk

Legal risk is the risk that the business activities of the Authority have unintended or unexpected legal consequences.

It includes risks arising from:

- (a) indadequate documentation, legal or regulatory incapacity, insufficient authority of a counterparty and uncertainty about the validity or enforceability of a contract in counterparty insolvency.
- (b) Actual or potential violations of law or regulation (including activity unauthorised for a company and which may attract a civil or criminal fine or penalty).
- (c) Failure to protect the Authority's property (including its interest in its premises).
- (d) The possibility of civil claims (including acts or other events which may lead to litigations or other disputes).

The Authority identifies and manages legal risk through the effective use of its legal adviser.

4 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
	MUR	MUR
Deposit on rental of premises	101,688	101,688
Prepayments and other debtors	623,582	433,787
Total	725,270	535,475

5 CAR LOAN RECEIVABLE

	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
	MUR	MUR
Total car loan receivable	1,358,937	3,531,842
Proportion receivable within 1 Year	690,463	1,457,905
Proportion receivable after 1 Year	668,474	2,073,937

6 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and Cash Equivalents consist of cash in hand and at bank. Cash and Cash Equivalents included in the Cash Flow Statement comprised the following Statement of Financial Position amounts:

	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
	MUR	MUR
Cash at bank	6,025,549	6,988,101
Cash in hand	3,075	4,517
Total	6,028,624	6,992,618

7 WORK-IN-PROGRESS

	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
	MUR	MUR
Integrated Information System	12,714,777	7,204,319
Total	12,714,777	7,204,319

As the Integrated Information System was still ongoing as at 30 June 2023, an amount of Rs 12,714,777/-which was mainly for the Software components, was accounted for as Work-in-Progress.



8 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Hardware	Total – Property, Plant & Equipment	Intangible - Software
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
COST						
At 1 July 2022	2,030,652	1,956,226	1,884,265	8,932,485	14,803,628	16,621
Additions	170,778	-	1,019,356	555,854	1,745,988	472,688
Disposals	18,285	-	-	38,525	56,810	-
At 30 June 2023	2,183,145	1,956,226	2,903,621	9,449,814	16,492,806	489,309
DEPRECIATION						
At 1 July 2022	1,932,804	1,872,419	1,339,406	3,139,308	8,283,937	16,621
Charges for the year	96,804	42,171	173,918	1,628,793	1,941,686	23,634
Disposals	18,285	-		38,525	56,810	
At 30 June 2023	2,011,323	1,914,590	1,513,324	4,729,576	10,168,813	40,255
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 30 June 2023	171,821	41,636	1,390,297	4,720,238	6,323,992	449,054
At 30 June 2022	97,848	83,807	544,859	5,793,177	6,519,690	-

9 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
	MUR	MUR
Trade creditors and accruals	2,718,464	2,285,984
Total	2,718,464	2,285,984

10 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR	
Current Liabilities			
Provision for passage benefits	651,815	627,762	
Provision for sick leave	1,078,206	1,072,966	
	1,730,021	1,700,728	
Non Current Liabilities			
Provision for passage benefits	1,955,447	1,883,287	
Provision for sick leave	9,269,159	8,888,570	
Provision for vacation leave	8,691,657	8,490,791	
Pension Fund	51,880,694	41,926,136	
	71,796,957	61,188,783	
Total	73,526,978	62,889,512	

Employees' entitlement to bank sick and vacation leave as defined in PRB Report (the regulatory body for remuneration of MQA employees) are recognised as and when they accrue to employees.

The balance of sick leave in excess of 110 days which is refundable has been classified as short-term liability in addition to those that are due and payable within one year.

25% of the passage benefits amount is considered as short-term liability in addition to those that are due and payable within one year and the remaining 75% is classified as long-term liability.

11 TERM CAR LOAN PAYABLE

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Total car loan payable	1,358,937	3,531,842
Proportion payable within 1 Year	690,463	1,457,905
Proportion payable after 1 Year	668,474	2,073,937



12 GENERAL FUND

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Opening balance	(43,923,394)	(40,887,614)
Profit for the year	1,093,420	3,604,088
Pension Fund Adjustment	(8,345,070)	(6,566,215)
Employee Benefits Obligation - Past service liability contribution	1,076,340	-
Prior Year Adjustments	94,978	(73,653)
Closing balance	(50,003,726)	(43,923,394)

13 REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Revenue recognised		
Capital grant	5,123,707	7,753,875
Grant received for revenue expenditure	24,594,385	27,600,241
Total	29,718,092	35,354,116

14 REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTION

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR	
Fees	17,487,500	15,688,200	
Miscellaneous	92,001	4	
Total	17,579,501	15,688,204	

15 OPERATING EXPENSES

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Staff cost	35,034,654	36,738,815
Staff training	1,020,170	734,750
Overseas mission	68,239	-
International membership	49,784	27,239
Depreciation	1,965,320	2,145,860
Total	38,138,167	39,646,663

16 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers	12,958	15,195
Seminar and workshops	107,761	-
Maintenance of premises	136,816	164,785
Repairs and maintenance of equipment	737,697	399,324
Motor vehicle expenses	106,488	108,194
Publicity and advertisement		53,467
Printing, postage, stationery and publications	227,995	121,492
Rental and related charges	3,718,599	3,413,972
Legal fees	184,000	156,800
Audit fees Consultancy fees	100,000	125,000 1,222,800
Telephone	1,091,802	1,097,303
Committees	1,236,768	718,107
Staff welfare and hospitality	145,367	30,358
Insurance of equipment	42,365	37,232
Miscellaneous expenses	156,669	79,117
	8,005,285	7,743,146

The Mauritius Qualifications Authority rents 522.8 m² office space from MITD and the lease is classified as operating lease. As at 30 June 2023, the present value of non-cancellable operating lease payment is Rs 961,994/- (3.5 months).



17 FINANCE COSTS

	Year ended 30 June 2023 MUR	Year ended 30 June 2022 MUR
Bank charges	60,721	48,423
Total	60,721	48,423

18 BUDGET

The budget for the period July 2022 to June 2023 is approved on a cash basis by economic nature classification and the financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.

A reconciliation of the actual amounts on a comparative basis as presented in the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts with the figures in the Statement of Financial Performance is presented below.

	Year ended 30 June 2023
Receipts	Rs
Actual amount on Comparative Basis as presented in the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts	47,297,594
Amount in the Statement of Financial Performance	47,297,594
Payments	
Actual amount on Comparative Basis as presented in the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts	45,527,371
Basis differences:	
Capital expenditure	(5,144,763)
Pension adjustment	2,685,828
Change in creditors/prepayments	(473,991)
Adjustment for IIS Project (Training)	961,500
Depreciation charge	1,965,320
Employee benefits obligations (Sick Leave, Vacation Leave & Passage Benefits)	(682,908)
Amount in the Statement of Financial Performance	46,204,173

19 EVENTS AFTER THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE DATE

There are no material events subsequent to the Statement of Financial Performance date.

20 REPORTING CURRENCY

These financial statements are presented in Mauritian Rupees because it is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Authority operates.

21 EMPLOYEE DISCLOSURE

At 30 June 2023, the MQA had thirty-five full-time employees, out of which seventeen were administrative staff.

22 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The management of the MQA is carried out by key personnel including the Director, Deputy Director and Managers who are responsible for managing the activities of the organisation. The aggregate remuneration of key management personnel was Rs 7.5 million for the period July 2022 to June 2023.

23 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Parties which are considered to be related to the MQA are other ministries and departments, mostly represented on the MQA Board, if they have the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the MQA or exercise significant influence over the financial and operating decision making, or vice versa. Related party transactions were generally carried out at commercial terms and conditions.

Eligible employees are granted duty free facilities and/or loans for the purchase of a car as prescribed in the PRB Report.

There are no other loans to key management personnel or to other categories of staff.



WAY FORWARD

Trends and Challenges

Enhancing Legal Framework

There is a need to make provision in the MQA Act and Regulations to enhance enforcement powers for monitoring and inspection by the MQA officials and designated persons and also to cancel registration of Training Institutions (TIs), Accreditation, Recognition, and Equivalence.

Furthermore, the MQA has to ensure conducive learning environment/infrastructure for training (staffing ratio within a Training Institution; duration of courses (minimum and maximum course duration not defined), workspace per trainee; classroom size not defined; parking facilities at Training Institutions; defining conducive environment for training).

Improving Service Delivery

Too much resource intensive processes slow down service delivery. There is a need for streamlining of all processes and reducing paperwork.

The MQA will have to ensure business continuity amidst uncertainties.

Tapping External Expertise

Difficulties in obtaining well qualified and competent Experts and Resource Persons representing the various sectors.

Fostering Relevance and Adequacy of Qualifications

To ensure relevance and adequacy of qualifications for employability (as per labour market demand) in Mauritius.

Curbing Proliferation of Low-Level Qualifications

Changes in proliferation of low-level qualifications bearing title of diploma, in duration of programmes at each level, local programme v/s foreign programmes (substantial variation e.g. National Certificate 1100hrs and City & Guilds 300hrs for Level 3 qualifications), in mode of delivery like online programmes and courses which are recognised but not offered in country of origin.

Reviewing Organizational Structure to Cater for New Challenges and Exigencies

After more than 20 years of operation, there is a need to review the organizational structure to provide a better service to its stakeholders and to meet new challenges and exigencies in the TVET sector.

Giving Impetus to Recognition of Prior Learning

- The challenges for the Recognition of Prior Learning is the low uptake and poor knowledge of RPL.
- Limited in fields and levels across NQF Resource Intensive
- Credit transferability
- Recognition by public and private service



Rethinking Recognition and Equivalence of Qualifications

- Absence of an explicit Regulatory Framework for Recognition & Equivalence and Authentication of Certificates for local qualifications
- Difficulty in obtaining recognition information in a timely manner and high costs associated in accessing international NARIC databases

Improving Data Collection

Submission of information on learner's enrolment and achievement by Training Institutions

Strategic Direction

The Strategic Direction encapsulates what the MQA aims to achieve in the coming years and the strategic actions to be there. Thus, a series of Key Strategic Milestones to be achieved are outlined for the next five years in a changing education and training landscape. To make it happen, key strategic actions have been formulated and eventually a five-year plan would be spelt out notwithstanding the fact that constant evaluation of activities would be undertaken. This plan acts as an enabling framework for conscious and planned actions and fosters a new sense of purpose.

A NEW CONTEXT - FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A NEW NORMAL

Mauritius was already in a state of flux when numerous challenges were already glaring the world in terms of skills and competencies requirements, especially with the changing nature of work as a result of advances in technology. As a country that values its population as its main asset, the education and training landscape was set to be redefined significantly through its new Government Programme 2020-2024 towards ensuring enhanced social inclusiveness and equality of opportunity through empowerment.

It should be recalled that significant reform at the level of the primary and secondary sectors with the nine-year schooling has already set the pace for the emergence of a new educational configuration responsive to the requirements of a more sophisticated society and equipping our children with the basic 21st century skills. In the same vein, the new institutional arrangement of the Higher Education (HE) sector, following the Higher Education Act, sets out the tone for nurturing a strong and versatile human resource base that reconciles with the aspirations of a high-income economy. More so, the Skills Development Authority Act provides for the establishment of a new institution that would confer awarding powers to training providers in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector.

Amidst all these reforms, the National Qualifications Framework remains a critical part of this new architecture of the Mauritian educational and training system. It has served its purpose over the years by establishing a basis for improving the quality, accessibility linkages and recognition of qualification locally and internationally. To retain their relevance and effectiveness, qualifications will need to respond to current and emerging workforce and social needs. Their delivery should be done in ways that meet learners' needs and circumstances as well as boosting the trust of learners, employers and the community generally.

The traditional role of formal qualifications is increasingly challenged by new forms of learning. Many people gain skills and experience in a variety of settings outside the formal educational and training system.

Many current job roles will become redundant but new ones will also emerge with roles that require new skill sets that would still be needed to humanise a technology-driven society. Skills required for sustainable development and which address climate change are also important.

Now, more than ever before, workplace will require rethinking and its transformation is ineluctable. The Work from Home (WFH) concept is now more than ever real and will impact on our usual way of life. Teamwork and collaboration are increasingly valued as collective rather than individual initiative and achievement. Innovation is no more just a buzz word but unless it continuously enshrines in our practices, with mindfulness and compassion, we all can navigate in uncertainties, thus the need to plan for preparedness.

A NEW ROLE

Our role is to ensure that our qualifications are accepted as credible and robust, both nationally and internationally. This will be achieved by positioning ourselves as a leading and strong qualifications authority by establishing a culture of innovation and strengthening our capacity to face new challenges. We will also engage and maintain a focus on excellence in everything we do and led by our organisational values to foster a strong and leading qualification system that would respond to the needs of a changing society.



STRATEGIC MILESTONES

1. STRATEGIC MILESTONE ONE

With the ongoing effect of new technology, particularly artificial intelligence, transforming the world of work through its power to analyse, aggregate and disseminate information, including new knowledge, we will ensure that all our services and processes are fully digitalised and paperless and adaptive in a constant state of disruption and innovation.

Strategic Intent 1.1: Foster a new working culture that embraces digital technology to face upcoming challenges

- 1.1.1 Develop a new set of organisational values that reconcile with a technology driven environment
- 1.1.2 Implement a change management programme
- 1.1.3 Build organisational capacity to manage change in a context of digitalization

Strategic Intent 1.2: Optimise use of organisational resources for a quality service whilst being in a constant state of preparedness and responsiveness

- 1.2.1 Develop a Performance Management Framework with new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for fully digitalized service
- 1.2.2 Set up a resource planning committee to assess and develop resource requirements for maintaining operational capacities at all levels including initiatives to respond to crisis situations
- 1.2.3 Develop a computerised infrastructure in terms of Information Technology (IT) requirements (connectivity, bandwidth, server, data storage capacity) to ease effective interaction with internal and external customers

Strategic Intent 1.3: Ensure sustainable organisational growth and capability

- 1.3.1 Build a new organisational competence through learning and sharing by developing a Competency Framework
- 1.3.2 Improve financial accountability and sustainability by focusing on FinTech and by reviewing and tapping on available sources of funding (regionally and internationally) whilst adopting project-based approach in a context of limited resources
- 1.3.3 Redesign our organisational structure and review roles of administrative and technical staff to cater for current and future needs
- 1.3.4 Introduce online delivery of service (virtual, work from home, out of office) by embracing up-to-date practices

Strategic Intent 1.4: Improve interactivity with stakeholders

- 1.4.1 Enhance sound public relation with different stakeholders for effective and productive interaction
- 1.4.2 Build a new online platform (website, social media, blog) with interactive features to enhance service delivery

2. STRATEGIC MILESTONE TWO

To retain their relevance and effectiveness, we will continuously ensure that the NQF qualifications respond to current and emerging workforce and social needs, are delivered in ways that meet learners' needs and circumstances, and are trusted by learners, employers and the community generally.

Strategic Intent 2.1: Engage in a review process of the NQF so that it becomes a more responsive instrument in the national education system

- 2.1.1 Carry out consultation exercises with key stakeholders to remain contemporary, fit for purpose and consistent with best practices
- 2.1.2 Agree on an implementation roadmap for the NQF review
- 2.1.3 Formulate a comprehensive set of policies and regulations for the revised NQF

Strategic Intent 2.2: Promote transparency, trust and strong linkages of qualifications across the education sectors for better relevancy and coherency

- 2.2.1 Engage all stakeholders (education, employers, providers and industry) in the promotion and development of qualifications pathways across the National Qualifications Framework
- 2.2.2 Contribute towards promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as an engine of development and develop permeability and pathways from TVET to Higher Education

Strategic Intent 2.3: Lead in the development of a National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (NCATS) and Register

- 2.3.1 Develop Policies and Regulations to introduce National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (including micro credentials)
- 2.3.2 Establish a Learner Management Information System (LMIS) (online register) to keep and maintain records on learners' achievements based on credit system
- 2.3.3 Implement NCATS Roadmap



Strategic Intent 2.4: Engage in further referencing of the NQF with international Qualifications Frameworks

- 2.4.1 Develop new linkages (e-linkages) with foreign NQF bodies to mutually support in endeavours and projects related with NQF
- 2.4.2 Develop the readiness for the alignment of NQF at regional level and international level (Regional Qualifications Framework-RQF; European Qualifications Framework-EQF and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Qualifications Reference Framework-AQRF

3. STRATEGIC MILESTONE THREE

We will ensure that the concept of 'learning and training everywhere, anytime' is fully imbued in our education and training landscape

Strategic intent 3.1: Promote the culture of Competency Based Education and Training

- 3.1.1 Facilitate development of market-driven and up-to-date competency based national qualifications with flexibility in credit certification.
- 3.1.2 Establish and maintain an online centralised up-to-date repository of occupational/ competence standards and the NQF
- 3.1.3 Engage in advocacy for competency-based qualifications

Strategic intent 3.2: Enhance access to new learning modes and pathways for greater mobility within and between education sectors, NQF levels and qualifications

- 3.2.1 Promote access and certification by including new modes of learning for all learners (not limited within a training centre)
- 3.2.2 Build capacity of training providers on Competency-Based Education and Training to ensure effective delivery including Work-Based learning and online mode
- 3.2.3 Foster new modes of competency-based assessment leading to credit certification through multi-stakeholders' involvement
- 3.2.4 Facilitate recognition and comparability of qualifications for greater mobility
- 3.2.5 Enhance the policy and legal framework for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Strategic intent 3.3: Improve quality assurance and facilitate learning delivery

3.3.1 Address Quality Assurance (QA) from a more holistic perspective such that it focuses on the following key areas and their interconnectedness: Policy & Governance, Qualifications and Standards, Delivery, Assessment, Validation, Certification and Evaluation

- 3.3.2 Reinforce leadership of stakeholders in creating a quality learning ethos and strengthen capacity of Training Institutions to assure coherence and synergy among curriculum development, pedagogy and assessment of learning outcomes in the learning processes
- 3.3.3 Benchmark QA to international QA frameworks whilst addressing upcoming challenges in terms of new technology driven landscape

4. STRATEGIC MILESTONE FOUR

We will ensure that our Regulations and Policies are risk-based, impactful to the community and resonate with regional and international best practices

Strategic intent 4.1: Foster research for policy development

- 4.1.1 To put in place a research and development mechanism to keep the organisation responsive and innovative
- 4.1.2 Build capacity for research
- 4.1.3 Solicit collaborative research with stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally

Strategic intent 4.2: Ensure policy development is evidence and risk based

4.2.1 Continuously mitigate risks and re-evaluate policies and training/educational practices and benchmark against international norms to address policy gaps



APPENDICES

List of New Registered Training Institutions – 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

SN	Name of Institution	Address	Telephone	Manager	Programme Officer
1	ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS LTD	13C Volcy De La Faye Street Beau Bassin	467 2323 5942 2536	Mr Uways Muzzamil Kureeman	Mrs Marie Sophie Stéphanie Poonsamy
2	WALES MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED	Poonye Lane Canot Bambous	243 4279 5777 6449	Mrs Roma Devi Poonye	Ms Ramrutton Natasha
3	ORTUS CO LTD	1 st Floor Appadoo Building 180, Royal Road Belle Étoile Coromandel	5947 7583	Ms Helina Moopliah	Ms Helina Moopliah
4	AFROTECH TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD	18A St Jean Road Quatre Bornes	425 6536 5251 4764	Mr Goinda Padayachy	Mr Goinda Padayachy
5	BUSINESS CARE BUSINESS SCHOOL LTD	Mansion House Rungoo Road Roches Noires	411 6876 5498 1698	Mr Patrick Teddy Sattoovera	Mr Patrick Teddy Sattoovera
6	LEMANIA TRAINING INSTITUTE LIMITED	Bon Air Moka	433 6121 5497 1978	Ms Yasbeer Adilla Affizah Diouman- Mosafeer	Ms Samea Didarally-Mangou
7	EXOTIC LEARNING HUB LTD	45, Rue de la Canelle Ébène	401 1475 5920 7932	Ms Saamiyah Bibi Fakirmamode	Ms Bidwantee Devee Ramnarain
8	CHELVAN TRAINING LTD	Rue Gustave Colin Forest Side Curepipe	670 1840 5495 1877	Mr Julien Ralph Burzoo	Mr Julien Ralph Burzoo
9	SD WORX (MAURITIUS) LIMITED	11 th Floor, Nexteracom Rue Du Savoir Cybercity Ébène	460 2154 5883 1268	Ms Yasmina Salma Annowar	Ms Urvarshini Luxmie Sookhoo
10	MEDAL TIUS LTD	4A Thompson Road Vacoas	660 1890 5943 9387	Mr Sundaresan Maiyalagan	Mr Sundaresan Maiyalagan
11	MMA BUSINESS SCHOOL LTD	2 nd Floor Fon Sing Building Edith Cavell Street Port Louis	5251 4218	Mr Sacheedanand Tahalooa	Mr Sacheedanand Tahalooa
12	ROYAL LONDON COMPANY LIMITED	7, Villa Chambly No.2 Curepipe Road Curepipe	5281 9090	Mr Aditya Boygah	Mr Bhimsing Rajmun



SN	Name of Institution	Address	Telephone	Manager	Programme Officer
13	KONFORMITAS CONSULTING LTD	8 th Floor Ébène Tower 52 Cybercity Ébène	464 1757 5859 8382	Mrs Yotsna Lalji-Venketasawmy	Mrs Yotsna Lalji-Venketasawmy
14	SCOMAT LIMITÉE	Grewals Lane Bell Village Pailles	206 0444 5940 4854	Mr Parwez Baboo	Mr Parwez Baboo
15	COMPFIDUS MENTORING LTD	Chemin Vingt Pieds Grand Baie	5256 5409	Mrs Lista Sarika Subdhan	Mrs Lista Sarika Subdhan
16	GLOBECHAIN LTD	Suite 302, 3 rd Floor The Catalyst Building Plot 40, Silicon Avenue Cybercity Ébène	460 0477 5941 8661	Mrs Sarada Moloye	Mrs Sarada Moloye
17	APPLEBY (JV) LTD & CIE	7 th Floor Happy World House 37, Sir William Newton Street Port Louis	203 4300 5251 3260	Mrs Melissa Naik	Mrs Melissa Naik
18	ASK SOLUTIONS LTD	Office 7, Industrial Zone St Antoine Goodlands	283 3534 5785 1330	Ms Nidhi Jeewooth	Ms Nidhi Jeewooth
19	GQS LTD	Cnr Royal Road & Sir Walter Besant Streets Beau Bassin	5940 7410	Mrs Kaumala Devi Seethiah	Mrs Kaumala Devi Seethiah
20	SOLOCAL INTERACTIVE LTD	3 rd Floor, Rose Belle Building Gros Billot Rose Belle	831 3299 5251 8320	Mr Amir Frederic Falk	Mr Amir Frederic Falk
21	FOCUS ON SAFETY AND HEALTH LTD	La Forge Avenue Quatre Bornes	5759 1298 5252 2977	Mr Nikesh Rughoo	Mr Manishdev Rughoo
22	CDP INNOVATION ENTERPRISES LTD	Chemin La Source Route Palma Quatre Bornes	5506 2990	Mr Ramen Jayalingum Varden	Mr Chandrashiv Pandoo
23	LEX AQUILA TRAINING AND CONSULTING SERVICES LTD	Suite 304 St James Court St Denis Port Louis	214 6610 5858 7956	Mrs Mokshda Pertaub	Mrs Mokshda Pertaub
24	AVIS GLOBAL EDUCATION LTD	3rd Floor, P. Gajadar Tower 44, Palma Road Quatre Bornes	460 8282 5738 6998	Mr Nundun Seebaluck	Mr Nundun Seebaluck

SN	Name of Institution	Address	Telephone	Manager	Programme Officer
25	MITCONSULT LTD	Rue De L'institut 4 th Floor, Ébène Skies, Ébène	404 8000	Mrs Smita Shersingh	Mrs Fatimah Kodabaccus
26	SCOTT TRAINING LTD	Industrial Park 1 Riche Terre	206 9400 5984 0591	Mr Muhammad Sulaiman Javed Jeetoo	Mrs Kuldeepah Takoor
27	CONGRÉGATION DES SOEURS DE CHARITÉ DE NOTRE DAME DU BON ET PERPÉTUEL SECOURS	College Lane Curepipe	670 5684 5947 9321	Mr Kabir Raj Vicky Naga	Mr Kabir Raj Vicky Naga
28	BRILLIANT BRAINS LTD	Rue Du Savoir Office B, 4 th Floor 51b, Cybercity Ébène, Moka	5984 8377 5432 6801	Mrs Mokshda Devi Musaï	Mrs Mokshda Devi Musaï
29	AEL DDS LTD	34-35 Tamariniers Street Roche Bois Port Louis	240 2881	Mr Nikhil Gunnoo	Mr Nikhil Gunnoo
30	PREMIUM BUSINESS SCHOOL LIMITED	SR Tower Saint Georges Street, Port Louis	214 4352 5256 8500	Mr Rajeev Mudupadi Peddadu	Mr Rajeev Mudupadi Peddadu
31	RICH SAND HOTEL LTD	Wolmar Flic-en-Flac	453 8700	Mrs Shoshila Ramsamy	Mrs Shoshila Ramsamy
32	RED KLOUD LTD	Office 5,6,13 Escale Nord Blg Chemin Vingt Pieds Grand Bay	268 3613	Mr Imtiyaz Hossen Boolaky	Mr Imtiyaz Hossen Boolaky
33	AARMANDO TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT LTD	Perimbe Street No 27, Port Louis	218 3030	Mr Shah Ahmad Mehendy Yearoo	Mr Shah Ahmad Mehendy Yearoo
34	ERNST & YOUNG LTD	6 th Floor Iconebene Rue de l'Institut Ébène	403 4777	Mr Jacques Louis Ah-Wong	Mr Jacques Louis Ah-Wong
35	CHRISTYLE INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY NETWORK LTD	3 Lataniers Street Sainte Croix	5786 2917	Mrs Marie Christina Carenne De Boucherville Némorin	Mrs Marie Christina Carenne De Boucherville Némorin
36	AIR MAURITIUS INSTITUTE COMPANY LTD	Technical Training School SSR International Airport, Plaisance	603 3827	Mr Charles Serge Jean Bernard Sadien	Mrs Nardana Rangan
37	VISIONWAY LTD	Bois Cheri Road Moka	433 2696 5257 6017	Mr Mark Anthony Brewer	Mr Mark Anthony Brewer
38	MEDICAL AND WELLNESS RESORTS LIMITED	Les Mariannes d'Epinay Pamplemousses	243 9200 5728 7110	Mr Mohamed Siddick Ahad Maudarbocus	Mrs Shakuntala Devi Groodoyal



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39	PROSAFE & CO LIMITED	5, Bissoondoyal Street Port Louis	260 2400 5258 0966	Mr Mohammad Azad Siddick Khodabocus	Mr Mohammad Azad Siddick Khodabocus
40	NEW STEPS SOLUTIONS LTD	2, Cladius David Street Rose Hill	463 2207 5257 5562	Mr Michaël Bruce To Tok Shan	Mr Michaël Bruce To Tok Shan
41	GRAND KNOWLEDGE CO LTD	Royal Road 6 th Milestone Calebasses	689 0593	Mr Mohammad Minhaaj Ibn Malleck Beharry	Mr Mohammad Minhaaj Ibn Malleck Beharry
42	KDV INTERNATIONAL LTD	Royal Road St Julien Village Flacq	418 3000 5255 9337	Mrs Deepti Bhasin	Mrs Deepti Bhasin
43	LEXCORP SUPPORT SERVICES LTD	3 rd Floor IKS Building Cnr Farquhar & Seeneevassen Streets, Port Louis	260 9257	Mrs Zareena Tawheen Choomka	Mrs Bibi Rabiah Hafez Nawsheen Choomka
44	PRO-DESIGN ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS LTD	1 st Floor, Building No2 Industrial Building Valentina Industrial Estate, Phoenix	660 4545 5755 3738	Mr Vikramsing Bhujun	Mr Vikramsing Bhujun
45	COMPACT INTELLECT LTD	Dowlut Lane 2 Pont Fer Phoenix	5447 5872	Mr Rexford Afrifa Osei	Mr Rexford Afrifa Osei
46	THINK FUTUREWISE LTD	Suite 407 4 th Floor Newry Complex Royal Road Quatre Bornes	638 1313	Mr Berthy Ramdoo	Mr Berthy Ramdoo
47	ADVANCED STUDY OF AFRICAN RENAISSANCE POLICIES IDEAS LTD	3rd Floor, New Gate House St Jean Road & Col Draper Avenue Quatre Bornes	5517 1660	Mr John Huston Stanfield	Mr John Huston Stanfield
48	A. I. MAHARAULLEE (AIMTECHNOLOGY) LTD	14 Avenue Ollier Quatre Bornes	5727 4824	Mr Ackbur Ismael Maharaullee	Mr Mohamad Irfaan Hosenally

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49	CUISINELLE LTÉE	27A Jawaharlall Nehru (Ex Wellington Street) Port Louis	5760 4044	Ms Aniisah Dilloo	Mr Faïz Nabeebux
50	AMV CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD	Mamode Timol Building First Floor & Second Floor St Jean Road Quatre Bornes	467 3434 5975 6634	Mrs Kessambal Veeramootoo	Ms Krisnamah Rajammal Ramasamy
51	RAYS SOLUTIONS LTD	42B Vandermesh Street Rose Hill	466 6743 5760 5631	Mr Yudhansingh Boodhun	Mr Désiré Gaël Henriette-Bolli
52	BESMART PROFESSIONALS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE CO LTD	2 nd Floor Fon Sing Building Edith Cavell Street Port Louis	214 9341 5252 3624	Mr Sayyad Nazeer Shah Boodhun	Mr Rajeshwar Mancoo
53	MAURITIUS NETWORK SERVICES LTD	Silicon Avenue Cybercity Ébène	401 6800 5258 1820	Mrs Mira Sheila Poonyth	Mrs Mira Sheila Poonyth



List of Qualifications Validated for the Period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

SN	LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS VALIDATED			
1	National Certificate Level 5 in Cooperative Procurement and Supply Chain Management			
2	National Certificate Level 5 in Cooperative Customer Care and Retail Business Management			
3	National Certificate Level 3 in Textile Product Manufacture			
4	National Certificate Level 2 in Metal Works			
5	National Certificate Level 2 in Light Engine Mechanics			
6	National Certificate Level 3 in Light Engine Mechanics			
7	National Certificate Level 4 in Industrial Machine Maintenance			
8	National Certificate Level 3 in Art and Craft			
9	National Diploma Level 6 in Diabetes Foot Care Nursing			
10	National Certificate Level 4 in Professional Sales			
11	National Certificate Level 5 in Pre-Hospital Emergency Care			
12	National Certificate Level 4 in Entrepreneurship Development			
13	National Certificate Level 5 in Software Development			
14	National Certificate Level 2 in Shoemaking and Leathercraft			
15	National Certificate Level 3 in Early Childhood Care and Development			
16	National Certificate Level 3 in Security Services			
17	National Certificate Level 3 in Care of Elderly and Disabled			
18	National Certificate Level 5 in Lifts Installation, Testing and Maintenance			
19	National Certificate Level 2 in Plumbing			
20	National Certificate Level 3 in Bakery			

Committee Set Up towards the Fulfilment of MQA Functions

Meetings of Recognition & Equivalence Committee

COMMITTEE	NAME OF CHAIRPERSON	NO. OF MEETINGS
Recognition & Equivalence Committee (From 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)	Mr Vijaye Anand Ramchurn Deputy Director MQA Dr Ramesh Ramdass Manager Quality Assurance Assigned Duties of Deputy Director MQA	7

