



National Women's Council

ANNUAL REPORT


JANUARY


JUNE

2016

-

2017

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2016 - 2017

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report for the period January 2016 to June 2017 for the National Women's Council. The major highlights for 2016/2017 were the enactment of the National Women's Council Act 2016 to further promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality through the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields. A Strategic Framework (2016-2020) and an implementation plan were adopted to ensure that the Council becomes more dynamic and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the contemporary women. The Framework further guides the re-orientation of the Council over the next five years to ensure that the Strategic Plan of the Council meets national and international set targets for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). In the year 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Gender Unit of the parent Ministry and the National Women's Council in a bid to recognise the desire to strengthen the ties of partnership and cooperation between the Gender Unit and NWC.



For the next five years, the Council will work towards the implementation of short, medium and long term goals identified in the Strategic Framework to meet its vision, mission and objectives.

I seize this opportunity to extend my special thanks to the staff of the Council who are contributing to meet the objectives of the Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. A. J. Jaunbocus'.

M. A. J. Jaunbocus (Mrs)
President, National Women's Council

OUR VISION

Our Vision is that of a Republic of Mauritius where all women and men have equal rights and opportunities to shape society and their own lives. We work towards the promotion of women’s empowerment for the attainment of gender equality.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission, as a non-sectarian corporate body is to work towards the social, economic and political empowerment of women, by adopting a Gender and Development approach. We work in partnership with other stakeholders that share the same objectives for the attainment of gender equality.

3.1 Set up

The National Women's Council (NWC) was set up in 1985 through an Act of Parliament and operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

3.2 The objects of the NWC are to:

- (a) establish and maintain effective communication with women and organisations of women;
- (b) ensure coordination of activities of groups of women and organisations;
- (c) assist in the implementation and evaluation of Government policies as they relate to the needs of women;
- (d) at the request of the National Committee, co-operate and if necessary affiliate with other bodies whether in or outside Mauritius having similar aims; and
- (e) identify and recommend to the National Committee actions and projects that will promote the integration of women in development

3.3 The functions of the National Committee shall be:

- (a) To examine and evaluate the contribution of women on the various sectors of development in the light of the national needs and priorities;
- (b) To study specific areas where the participation of women should be invited or strengthened;
- (c) To advise the Minister on the development and implementation of programmes to
- (d) integrate women in all sectors of national development; and
- (e) To appoint such sub-committees as it thinks necessary and determine their terms of reference, duration and composition.

3.4 Composition of the National Committee of the NWC

As per the National Women's Council Act 1985, the National Committee is composed of:

- (a) The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare;
- (b) One representative of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare;
- (c) One representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- (d) One representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- (e) One representative of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources & Tertiary Education and Scientific Research;
- (f) One representative of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life;
- (g) The Secretary of the Council
- (h) One representative of each of the five regional committees;
- (i) Three members appointed by the Minister.

As per Section 6 of the Act, the National Committee has set up Committees to assist the Council in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers:

- (a) Staff Committee
- (b) Finance Committee
- (c) Project Committee
- (d) Fund Raising Committee
- (e) Departmental Bid Committee

4.1 Chairperson and Members of the National Committee

As per the National Women’s Council Act 1985, the National Committee is composed of:

The National Committee is constituted of a Chairperson, the Secretary and thirteen other members including representatives from five Ministries, five Regional Committees and three Independent members. The Chairperson and Members of the National Committee for the period January 2016 to June 2017 were as follows:

S/N	NAME	PROFILE
1.	Chairperson: Mrs J. Jaunbocus (January 2017 - June 2017) Mr M. Boodhun (January 2016 - December 2016)	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
2.	Mrs S. Bahadoor Deputy Permanent Secretary (January 2017- June 2017) Mrs M. J. Jaunbocus Deputy Permanent Secretary (January 2016 - December 2017)	Representative of Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
3.	Mrs S. Domun, Assistant Permanent Secretary Alternate: Mr. D. Davasgaium, Assistant Permanent Secretary)	Representative Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
4.	Mr R. Dabeedyal, Ag. Assistant Permanent Secretary (January 2017- June 2017) Ag. Assistant Permanent Secretary (January 2016- December 2016)	Representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports
5.	Mrs D. Seejore, Assistant Director Alternate: Mrs. K. Gunpath-Lutchmun Assistant Permanent Secretary	Representative of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
6.	Mr S. D Dassaye, Deputy Permanent Secretary (January 2016 to June 2017) Alternate: Mrs S. D. Ramjutton, Assistant Permanent Secretary	Representative of Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
7.	Mrs R. Nuseeb Alternate: Mrs K. Rughoobur	Representative of Pamplemousses/ Rivière du Rempart Regional Committee

S/N	NAME	PROFILE
8.	Mrs S. Jugessur (January 2016 to May 2017) Alternate: Mrs M. Jeetah (November 2016 to June 2017)	Representative of Moka/Flacq Regional Committee
9.	Mrs L. Frappier Alternate: Mrs L. Gunessee	Representative of Grand Port/ Savanne Regional Committee
10.	Mrs S. Auckle ALternate: Mrs S. Moher	Representative of Port- Louis/ Plaines Wilhems/Black River Regional Committee
11.	Mrs L. Pierre Louis Alternate: Mrs M. Claude Martin	Representative of Rodrigues Regional Committee
12.	Mrs P. Atchia	Independent Member
13.	Mrs M. J.H. Fidele	Independent Member
14.	Mrs D. Jootun	Independent Member

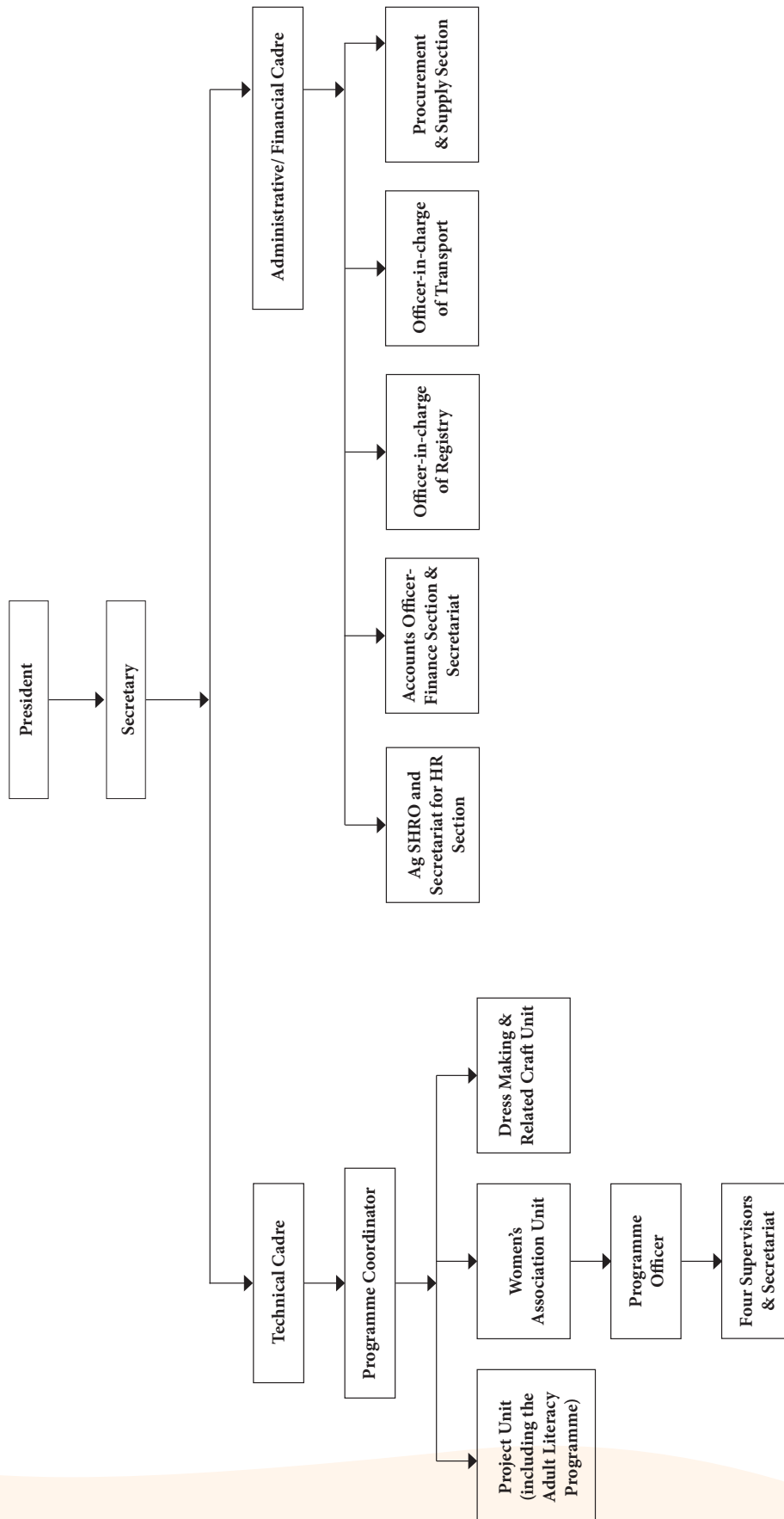
4.2 Remuneration of Members of the National Committee

The President of the National Committee of the NWC was paid a monthly fee of Rs 12,970/-. All the other members were paid a fee of Rs 890/- in respect of every sitting of the Board meetings.

Regarding the sub - Committee meetings, the Chairpersons and members were paid a fee of Rs 1,195/- and Rs 815/- per sitting respectively.

It is to be noted that the Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius has been adhered to.

5.0 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NWC



An Action Plan was prepared in 2016 which spelt out the various projects and activities to be implemented by the Council during period January 2016 - June 2017, which is as follows:

- (a) Formulation of a Roadmap for the Implementation of the provisions of the new National Women's Council Act of 2016;
- (b) Implementation of key short term strategies emanating from Roadmap;
- (c) Intensive campaigns for the dissemination of the provisions of the new NWC Act;
- (d) Development of a website for the National Women's Council;
- (e) Sustaining Information, Education and Communication campaigns using innovative technologies and Open- Distance Learning materials geared towards empowering members of the Regional Committees; Women's Associations and the womenfolk at large. Thematics that will be addressed are the various targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Gender Concept
- (f) Capacity Building for NGOs for them to enable them to engage into constructive dialogue with the NWC in order to influence policy decisions;
- (g) Capacity Building for the Officers of the Council as regards the new "modus operandi" that will be set up;
- (h) Implementation of projects that will ultimately benefit the Council and its members in bridging the gender gaps; and
- (i) Establish networking with NGOs of the region of the Indian Ocean working for women's empowerment and gender equality.

7.1 WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

The NWC to consolidate its programmes and activities for the social, economic and political empowerment of women for the period 2016/2017.

(b) Social Empowerment of Women

The social empowerment of women is of utmost importance to help women face the challenges of life. It entails capacity building programmes in various fields such as dressmaking, craft making and Home Economics conducted in Women Centres, Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres and Village Halls amongst others for their overall self-empowerment and/or to enable them to gain employability.

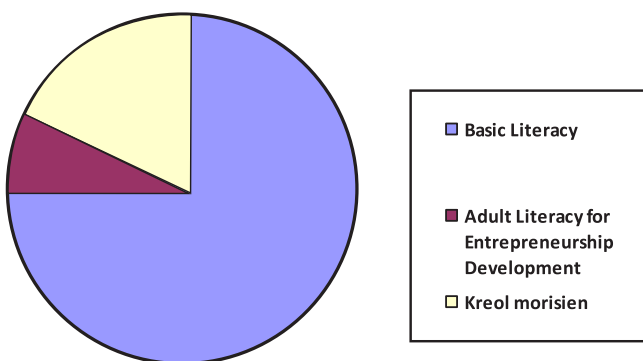
It also relates to the awareness-raising campaigns on a wide array of issues in a bid to address practical and strategic needs of women.

The number of women having benefitted from our awareness raising campaigns for the year 2016 is 30,137 and for the period January to June 2017 is 13,367.

As regards capacity building programmes in various fields, these can be described as follows:

(i) Adult Literacy Programme (ALP)

Since 1986, the NWC had embarked on the Adult Literacy Programme which aims at imparting basic skills in writing, reading and numeracy so as to empower the illiterate women.



The ALP consists of the Basic Literacy course; the Adult Literacy for Entrepreneurship Development course and the Kreol Morisien. The number of beneficiaries trained so far, for the year 2016 is 803 and for the period January to June 2017 is 740 as represented graphically.

(ii) Dressmaking and Related Craft Unit

The Dressmaking & Craft Unit of the NWC conducts training to empower women both socially and economically. Many women having benefitted from the training have set-up income-generating activities in the respective fields and have been able to earn a living.

The number of women having successfully completed their training for the year 2016 is 3,675 and for the period **January to June 2017 is 2,920.**

(iii) Keep Fit course

In a bid to encourage women to practice physical exercises, the NWC has been dispensing keep fit courses at La Marie and Allée Brillant Community Centres and the National Women Development Centre. Some 140 women have followed the course during the year 2015

(b) Economic Empowerment of Women

Women's economic empowerment, that is, their capacity to bring about economic change for themselves – is increasingly viewed as an important contributing factor to achieving equality between women and men. Economic empowerment of women enables the latter to have access to income-generating activities; be self-sufficient in order to have a sustainable livelihood, thereby, allowing them to integrate into mainstream development. The NWC collaborates with various stakeholders to provide, inter alia, training to women for their self-empowerment; facilitates their employability and/or inculcate an entrepreneurship culture through the setting up of home-based activities for income-generation.

Number of women sensitized during the year 2016 is 2,261 and for the period January to June 2017 is 268.

(c) Political Empowerment of Women

The NWC has sustained its programmes aimed at empowering the womenfolk in engaging into the political arena. Programmes on leadership, communication and self-assertiveness were organized during the course of 2015.

Number of women sensitized during the year 2016 is 1,575.

(d) Celebrating the International Women’s Day

Model Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW)

The NWC introduced a “**Model Commission on the Status of Women**” in 2016 targeting young students, both boys and girls. The aim of the MCSW is to enable students to acquaint themselves with the proceedings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as well as to encourage them to develop their skills such as communication, self-assertiveness, leadership, advocacy, negotiation and problem-solving amongst others. This MCSW is a simulation of the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations and has adopted a “learning-by-doing” approach.

The first edition of the MCSW was held on **24 and 25 March 2016** at the seat of the Trianon Convention Centre in the context of the celebration of International Women’s Day. The NWC renewed its engagement and commitment and organised the 2nd Edition of the MCSW through a two-day conference held on **30 and 31 March 2017** at the seat of **Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI)**. Some 200 and 311 students participated in 2016 and 2017 respectively, i.e. both male and female students of Lower Six from secondary institutions had assumed the roles of Member States forming part of the CSW and had discussed on the issue of women’s rights and gender equality.



Model Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW)
2nd Edition: 30 and 31 March 2017 at Mahatma Gandhi Institute

7.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

On 09 March 2016, the Gender Unit and the NWC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to demarcate the roles and responsibilities of the Gender Unit as the central policy and coordinating body for gender mainstreaming strategies and the NWC as the implementing arm for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality. The NWC will implement activities for the social, economic and political empowerment of women.

The MOU paved the way for a clear demarcation between the role and responsibilities of each entity, as regards, women's empowerment and gender equality.

Following the signature of the MOU, the following activities/talks are being organised by the NWC in collaboration with the Gender Unit of the Parent Ministry:

- Cineclub - Documentaries/films are viewed through Cine club, in a bid to sensitize womenfolk on contemporary issues. From June to August 2017, 217 women have been reached for the Cineclub held at Floreal WEC, Rose-Belle WEC, Flacq WEC, Lallmatie WEC, Rose-Hill WEC, Paillotte WEC and Notre-Dame WEC.
- Ringball - Ringball was implemented in several Centres around the island. Same was completed at Triolet, Notre Dame and Flacq and 53 women have been trained accordingly. 15 women (11 participants from Flacq WEC, 2 from Floreal WEC and 2 from Paillotte WEC) have been selected for an exchange programme with the South African Ringball players to be held from 24 October to 29 October 2017 in South Africa. The purpose of the exchange programme are as follows:
 - (i) Participants would have the opportunity to be trained by professional players in South Africa.
 - (ii) The players would be able to discover their strength either as trainer, coach or referee.
 - (iii) The players would be able to register themselves as members of the International Ringball Federation.
- From May to August 2017, 1,695 women have been reached for the following thematics:
 - (i) Gender Concept
 - (ii) Sustainable Development Goals

(c) Consolidation of the Rupees for Solidarity Scheme

During the year 2016, some 42 vulnerable women have benefitted from the Scheme.

For the period January to June 2017, 17 vulnerable women have benefitted from the Scheme.

In addition to that, in a bid to consolidate the funds for the Rupees for Solidarity Scheme, a fund-raising activity in terms of selling of tickets was organised in December 2015 and the draw was held on 26 January 2016 at the seat of the Government Lotteries. The collaboration of various stakeholders including officers of the NWC has been sought for the sale of tickets. An amount of Rs 153,630 was raised.

Given the success of the activity, a second edition is being organised and the draw will be held in August 2017.

(d) “Caravane de Service de Proximité”

The “Caravane de Service de Proximité” was launched on 28 November 2015 in the context of the International Day Against Violence Against Women, where 174 women have been reached during the nine days of activities covering some 10 regions falling under the pockets of poverty as defined in Budget 2015/2016.



Launching ceremony of the “Caravane”
on Saturday 28 November 2015



Participants during activities organised

For the period January 2016 to June 2017, some **4831** persons were reached and a total number of **31** regions were covered through the implementation of a series of calendar of activities.

8.1 Donation of Grant for Women's Associations

- Every year, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare in collaboration with the National Women's Council (NWC) provides a grant of Rs 2,000/- to all Women Associations affiliated to the Council and Rs 5,000/- to each Regional Committee in a bid to enable them to organise activities for the empowerment of women.
- These Regional Committees are namely; Moka / Flacq Women Regional Committee, Pamplemousses / Rivière Du Rempart Women Regional Committee, Port-Louis / Plaines Wilhems / Black River Women Regional Committee and Grandport / Savanne Regional Committee.
- For the Financial year 2016/2017, some 1,100 Women Associations are affiliated with the Council.

On 26 May 2016, the NWC in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child éPaul Octave Wiehé Auditorium. Women's Associations affiliated with Regional Committees including the latter benefitted from a grant of Rs 2,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively.

For the year 2017, the Grant Donation Ceremony was held on 07 June 2017.



Grant Donation Ceremony 2017 at Octave Wiehé Auditorium, University of Mauritius on 07 June 2017.

8.2 Half - day Workshop entitled “Impact of Demographic Change and Structure in ensuring Sustainable Development”

In the context of the International Day of Families, a half- day workshop on the Impact of Demographic Change and Structure in ensuring Sustainable Development was organised on Saturday 21 May, 2016 at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes. The aim of the activity was to sensitise some 31 young couples on the patterns and changes of the families structure and also at describing the forthcoming challenges that families would be confronting in the future. The resource person was Dr H. Jooseery, Consultant in sexual and reproductive health.

8.3 Women in the Dark

This project initiated in July 2016 by Mrs Franziska Greber, a Swiss Artist and Psychotherapist.

Objective: It gives women the opportunity to express their intimate experiences, secrets, fears, pain, anger, hopes and belief. These women are given an opportunity to write their feelings anonymously on white shirts with a red permanent marker.

300 women participated in the project in 2017.



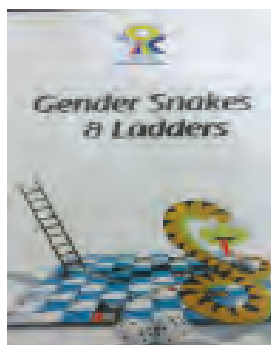
A briefing session with participants

8.4 National Omnisports Day 2016

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare in collaboration with the NWC organised for the first time a National Omnisports Day on 13 September 2013 at the Sir Gaëtan Stadium, targeting some 1,000 women which was a success. Various sports disciplines were organised namely Badminton, Volleyball, Pétanque and Athletics. The event was successfully repeated in September 2016 and some 1,000 women were reached.

8.5 Sale of Snakes and Ladders Game

The NWC organised a fund raising activity in January 2017 through the sale of snakes and ladders game which was carried out as a means to increase the existing funds for the Rupees for Solidarity Scheme.



A sample of the game

8.6 Youth Forum – Fostering a New Generation of Women Advocating for Gender Equality

The Youth Forum was held on 02 March 2017 at Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre-Bornes and some 80 participants attended same. The services of Mrs. (Dr) Ramoolah Ramtohul, Senior lecturer of the University of Mauritius and Ms. Megha Venkatasamy, former member of WIN were retained as Panelists.

8.7 Project: Micro-Egg Production

The National Women’s Council (NWC) came up with the project “Empowering Women through Income-Generating Activity in Micro-Egg Production” in 2016 funded by the Special Collaborative Programme (SCP) operating under the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The National Women’s Council received a first disbursement in May 2017 and a work plan was elaborated accordingly for the implementation of the project scheduled for the period May 2017 to April 2018.

The project aims at alleviating poverty through the empowerment of vulnerable women, thereby, increasing their self-esteem and as well as fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among the targeted beneficiaries. After a series of site visits effected by Family Support Officers (FSOs) in the regions of D’Epinay and Congomah, a list of eleven (11) beneficiaries living in poor conditions were confirmed.



Micro-Egg Production Project launched on 18 December 2017 at the Municipal Council of Port-Louis.



Beneficiary : Mrs. G. Reekoye –
Member of Implementation Sub-Committee

In a bid to make the National Women's Council (NWC) more responsive to the needs and concerns of contemporary Mauritian women, the Act of 1985 has been replaced by a new National Women's Council Act 2016 passed by the National Assembly on 03 May 2016. The new Act will be proclaimed after all necessary actions have been taken.

A Strategic Framework 2016-2020 has been adopted for the Implementation of the provisions of the new National Women's Council Act of 2016 by the National Committee at its 167th meeting held on 30 November 2016. The Strategic Framework (2016-2020) is a reflection and commitment of the NWC to work towards the implementation of the NWC Act of 2016. The ultimate aim is to raise public awareness and visibility of the Council as an advocacy platform for the achievement of gender equality. An Action Plan aligned to the Strategic Framework has been formulated and approved.

The NWC will work towards meeting the following Strategic Priorities as set out in the Strategic Framework for the next five years:

- Sustainability of Women's Movement
- transformative Leadership¹
- Catalyst for transformational Change
- Realising Women's Human Rights
- Strengthening Women's Empowerment Programmes for the attainment of Gender Equality
- Solid Financial base
- Robust and Solid Institution for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Once the National Women's Council Act 2016 is promulgated, the Council will review its role, responsibilities and 'modus operandi' to raise awareness and visibility of the Council as an advocacy platform for the achievement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

9.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The strategic goals for women's empowerment and gender equality would be implemented mainly through:

- (i) Capacity Building;
- (ii) Information, Education and Communication Campaigns.
- (iii) Projects, Programmes, Activities, Workshops and via Social Media

The NWC will work on the following actions required for the promulgation of the National Women's Council Act 2016 for a more dynamic and structured Council that will be fully equipped to fulfill its role of advocacy more effectively and that will respond to the emerging needs of the contemporary women:

- Categorization of Officers to ensure that the right structure/units are in place for the proper implementation of the new Act;
- Capacity Building for Officers of the Council with regards to GEWE issues, Mandate of the Council and roles and responsibilities; Training for field staff on the Sustainable Development Goals; the gender concept and women's related issues as well as project write-up.
- Implementation of key short term strategies emanating from the Strategic Framework 2016-2020;
- Devising the rules and regulations for eligibility for affiliation (membership fees, parameters to be set for Regional Committees);
- Organisation of Intensive campaigns for the dissemination of the provisions of the new NWC Act;
- Sustaining Information, Education and Communication campaigns using innovative technologies and Open-Distance Learning materials geared towards empowering members of the Regional Committees; Women's Associations and the womenfolk at large. Thematics that will be addressed are the various targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Gender Concept;
- Tailor-made awareness campaigns for enlistment of contemporary women's organization;
- Promote the active participation of women in the social, economic and political field;
- Provide a platform for women to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations; and
- Build partnership with other institutions working for GEWE at regional and international levels.

A. Women’s Association Unit

The Unit will organise women’s empowerment programmes during the course of 2016 for the womenfolk, the Regional Committees and Women’s Associations around Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Celebration of International Events

The NWC will promote the active participation of women in international events in 2016/2017 namely:



C. Dressmaking and Related Craft Unit

The courses offered by the Dressmaking and Related Craft Unit will be sustained.

D. Adult Literacy Programme

The programme will be sustained in Women Centres, Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres.

E. Project Unit

The Project Unit which has the responsibility to identify, formulate and implement projects for women's empowerment and gender equality will need to follow-up on activities pertaining to the **“Caravane de Service de Proximité”**.

The Unit will also have the responsibility to identify and implement gender-sensitive projects aimed at empowering the vulnerable women.

On another note, in view of the repealing of the National Women's Council Act of 1985, the Project Unit will need to look into the overall structure and functioning of the Dressmaking & Craft Unit and the Women's Association Unit in order to make them respond more adequately to the needs of the contemporary women.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES

The budget for January 2016-June 2017 of the NWC makes provision for a sum of Rs 750,000 to meet expenses for women's empowerment programmes.

Financial Report

The Financial Statements of the NWC for the period January 2016 to June 2017 is enclosed at Annex 1.

ANNEX 1



**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF AUDIT**

**On the Financial Statements
of the National Women's Council
for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2017**

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of National Women's Council, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in general fund and the cash flow statement for the 18-month period 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 National Women's Council as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the 18-month period then ended in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities.

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 National Women's Council 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.

Emphasis of Matter

General Fund – (Rs 117.73 million)

I draw attention to the negative balance of the General Fund, which has been increasing during the past years and stood at Rs 117,733,872 as at 30 June 2017. My opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the National Women's Council for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2017, 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. Management has not submitted the annual report for the period ended 30 June 2017.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities, 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 National Women's Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible of overseeing the National Women's Council'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 National Women's Council'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 National Women's Council'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 National Women's Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management's Responsibility for Compliance

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible for ensuring that the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the laws and authorities which govern them.

Auditor's Responsibility

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, my responsibility includes expressing an opinion on whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are, in all material respects, in compliance with the laws and authorities which govern them. This responsibility includes performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about whether the National Women's Council's expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by those charged with governance. Such procedures include the assessment of the risks of material non-compliance.

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

Opinion on Compliance

Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act

The financial statements of the National Women's Council for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2017 were submitted 26 October 2018, that is 11 months after the statutory date limit. Errors were noted during the audit and the amended financial statements were submitted on 18 July 2019. An annual report was not submitted.

In my opinion, except for the non-submission of annual report and late submission of the financial statements, in all material respects, the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the Act.

Public Procurement Act

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

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



C. ROMOOAH
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
Level 14,
Air Mauritius Centre
PORT LOUIS

26 August 2019

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Financial Statements For the 18 Months Period ended 30 June 2017

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Notes	18 months ended 30 June 2017 Rs	31 December 2015 Rs
ASSETS			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	6,461,606	5,372,257
Car Loan to staff		1,809,011	1,844,813
		<u>8,270,617</u>	<u>7,217,070</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	13,026,440	13,358,394
Accounts Receivable	5	490,192	482,876
		<u>13,516,632</u>	<u>13,841,270</u>
Total Assets		<u>21,787,249</u>	<u>21,058,340</u>
GENERAL FUND AND LIABILITIES :			
Reserves			
General Fund		(117,733,872)	(50,218,482)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Government Grant	6	3,453,876	4,547,128
Employees' Benefits	7	125,820,826	56,119,501
Car Loan Repayable		1,809,011	1,844,813
		<u>131,083,713</u>	<u>62,511,442</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Government Grant	6	965,936	617,335
Employees' Benefits	7	4,000,000	4,000,000
Car Loan		439,122	358,290
Accounts Payable	8	3,032,350	3,789,755
		<u>8,437,408</u>	<u>8,765,380</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities		<u>21,787,249</u>	<u>21,058,340</u>

The above Statement of Financial Position is approved as being correct and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.



BOARD MEMBER



CHAIRPERSON

Date : 2/7

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the period 01 January 2016 to 30 June 2017

	NOTES	1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017 Rs	1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 Rs
REVENUE			
Government Grant	9	129,848,285	83,624,630
Deferred Income		1,196,706	626,210
Other Income	10	211,598	170,354
Amount Received from Min./N.C.C (Allowances & Overtime)		1,702,630	1,400,734
		<u>132,959,219</u>	<u>85,821,928</u>
EXPENSES			
Salaries and Related Expenses	11	130,839,886	80,593,565
Administrative Cost	12	7,712,790	4,007,134
Depreciation		1,196,706	626,210
Amount paid to employees (Allowances & Overtime)		1,702,630	1,400,734
		<u>141,452,012</u>	<u>86,627,643</u>
Amount recognised in OCI		<u>23,144,459</u>	
Deficit for the year		<u><u>(31,637,252)</u></u>	<u><u>(805,715)</u></u>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW For the period 01 January 2016 to 30 June 2017

	NOTES	1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017	1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
		Rs	Rs
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Deficit for the period/year		(31,637,252)	(805,715)
<i>Adjustments for items not involving Cash</i>			
Profit on disposal		211,588	-
Employees' Benefits		12,389,711	5,636,601
Deferred Income		(1,196,706)	(626,210)
Depreciation		1,196,706	626,210
NET CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		<u>(19,035,953)</u>	<u>4,830,886</u>
WORKING CAPITAL CHANGES			
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable		(7,316)	(240,887)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable		(676,573)	(1,376,838)
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		<u>(683,889)</u>	<u>(1,617,725)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment		(452,055)	(125,370)
Purchase of Heavy Motor Car (Caravan)		(1,834,000)	(5,531,500)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Transfer to Government Grant		(235,340)	(3,549,500)
Grant Received during the year		216,715	125,370
Amount Received from Staffs		23,752	5,531,500
Amount Received from Accountant General as Car Loan		1,250,825	1,458,225
Amount Advanced to Staff as Car Loan		(1,250,825)	(1,458,225)
Car Loan reimbursed by Staff		1,205,795	274,527
Car Loan refunded to Ministry		(1,205,795)	(274,527)
		<u>(2,280,928)</u>	<u>(3,549,500)</u>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(331,954)	(336,329)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT PREVIOUS YEAR		13,358,394	13,694,723
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED	4	<u>13,026,440</u>	<u>13,358,394</u>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN GENERAL FUND

For the period 01 January 2016 to 30 June 2017

	1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017	1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
	Rs	Rs
Opening Balance	(50,218,482)	(45,863,267)
Deficit for the period/year	(31,637,252)	(805,715)
Transfer to Government Grant	(235,340)	(3,549,500)
Employees Benefit Change from IPSAS25 to IAS19 figures	<u>(35,642,798)</u>	<u></u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>(117,733,872)</u></u>	<u><u>(50,218,482)</u></u>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1. Background of the Organisation

The National Women's Council (NWC), a body corporate was established under the National Women's Council Act 2016 (Act No. 5 of 2016). It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The objects of the Council as set out at Section 4 of the Act are:

- (a) To promote women's empowerment and gender equality;
- (b) To ensure and promote the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields in order to further their overall empowerment; and
- (c) To provide a platform for women to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations.

2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

Pursuant to Part II of the Second Schedule of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts & Audit) Act as amended, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Framework for Statutory Bodies as spelt out in Section 72 of the Financial Reporting Act. The Historical Cost Convention and the Going Concern basis have been adopted for the purpose. The Financial Statements represent 18 months' period from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017. Comparatives are for a 12 months' period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

2.2 Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Mauritian Rupees ("Rs") which is the functional and presentation currency of the Council that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the NWC operates. The Mauritian Rupee is the currency that most faithfully reflects the underlying transactions, events and conditions that are relevant to NWC.

2.3 Revenue recognition

Income including grants and interest on Savings Account are recognized on an accrual basis so far as the relevant amount can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

'Revenue Based Grants & Donations' are accounted as 'Deferred Income' and credited in instalments to the Statement of Financial Performance over expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy for such assets.

2.4 Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at cost net of accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on the Straight Line basis so as to write off the depreciable value of the assets over their expected useful economic lives. The annual rates of depreciation used are:

Class of Assets%

Equipment	10
Computer	20
Furniture	10
Motor Vehicle	20
Heavy Motor Car (Caravan)	10

A full year of depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and no depreciation is provided in the year of disposal.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

2.5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and cash at bank.

2.6 Revenue recognition

Income including grants and interest on Savings Account are recognized on an accrual basis so far as the relevant amount can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

2.7 Provisions

A review of the respective provisions (Accumulated Sick Leave, Vacation Leave and Passage Benefits) is made at each Statement of Financial Position date and adjustments are effected accordingly so as to reflect the current best estimate.

2.8 Retirement Benefit Obligation

The NWC has a Defined Benefit Pension Scheme managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius (SICOM) Ltd. The assets under the scheme are held separately from those of the NWC in an independently administered fund with SICOM Ltd. NWC adopted the IPSAS 25, since the year 2011, so as to arrive at the figures representing its liability towards the employees under the defined benefit plan. Henceforth, starting with this present accounting period, NWC is adopting IAS 19 and the figures for the year ended 31 December 2015 has been restated as under IAS 19.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 01 January 2016 to June 2017

3 Property, Plant and Equipment

	Equipment	Computer	Furniture	M.Vehicle	H.M.Car	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
COST						
As at 01 January 2016	833,627	865,819	998,590	822,580	5,531,500	9,052,116
Additions	27,835	347,215	77,005	1,834,000	0	2,286,055
As at 30 June 2017	<u>861,462</u>	<u>1,213,034</u>	<u>1,075,595</u>	<u>2,656,580</u>	<u>5,531,500</u>	<u>11,338,171</u>
DEPRECIATION						
As at 01 January 2016	640,479	860,244	803,406	822,580	553,150	3,679,859
Charge for the year	52,185	77,827	53,569	183,400	829,725	1,196,706
As at 30 June 2017	<u>692,664</u>	<u>938,071</u>	<u>856,975</u>	<u>1,005,980</u>	<u>1,382,875</u>	<u>4,876,565</u>
NET BOOK VALUE						
As at 30 June 2017	<u>168,798</u>	<u>274,963</u>	<u>218,620</u>	<u>1,650,600</u>	<u>4,148,625</u>	<u>6,461,606</u>
As at 31 December 2015	<u>193,148</u>	<u>5,575</u>	<u>195,184</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,978,350</u>	<u>5,372,257</u>

4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2016/17	2015
	Rs	Rs
Petty Cash	3,638	3,716
Savings Account	12,698,777	13,339,435
Current Account	27,469	(122,785)
Global Fund Account	0	1,184
Rs for Solidarity Account	136,319	136,844
Special Collaborative Programme Account	160,237	0
	<u>13,026,440</u>	<u>13,358,394</u>

5 Accounts Receivable

Car Loan	439,122	358,290
Prepayment	51,070	124,586
	<u>490,192</u>	<u>482,876</u>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 01 January 2016 to June 2017

6 Government Grant

	1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017	1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
	Rs	Rs
Opening Balance	5,164,463	133,803
Grant received during the year	216,715	125,370
Grant received during previous years	235,340	5,531,500
	<u>5,616,518</u>	<u>5,790,673</u>
Less : Amount Credited as Income (See Below)	(1,196,706)	(626,210)
Closing Balance	<u>4,419,812</u>	<u>5,164,463</u>

Depreciation on assets acquired from grants

Class of Assets Acquired	Amount	Rate	Depreciation
Rs	Rs	%	Rs

GOVERNMENT GRANT USED FOR ASSETS ACQUISITION

Government of Mauritius	O.Equipment	342,684	10	48,466
Government of Mauritius	O.Equipment	27,835	10	3,719
Government of Mauritius	Furn. & Fittings	281,289	10	42,018
Government of Mauritius	Furn. & Fittings	77,005	10	11,551
Government of Mauritius	Computer	13,939	20	4,182
Government of Mauritius	Computer	347,215	20	73,645
Government of Mauritius	H.Motor Car	5,531,500	10	829,725
Government of Mauritius	Motor Vehicle	1,834,000	20	183,400
		<u>8,455,467</u>		<u>1,196,706</u>

7 Employees' Benefits

	2016/17	2015
	Rs	Rs
Accumulated Sick Leave	20,481,287	18,887,080
Accumulated Vacation Leave	17,291,174	15,068,711
Accumulated Passage Benefits	8,258,984	7,361,751
Accumulated Retirement Benefit Obligations (Note 13)	83,789,381	18,801,959
	<u>129,820,826</u>	<u>60,119,501</u>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 01 January 2016 to June 2017

8 Accounts Payable

	1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017	1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
	Rs	Rs
Car Loan	439,122	358,290
Creditors	298,997	114,187
Accruals	2,733,353	1,353,424
Provisions	-	2,322,144
	3,032,350	3,789,755

9 Revenue Grant

Grant from Government of Mauritius	130,065,000	83,750,000
Less : Amount spent as Capital Expenditure	(216,715)	(125,370)
	129,848,285	83,624,630

10 Other Income

Interest + C.S.O	211,598	170,354
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11 Salaries and Related Expenses

	Rs	Restated Rs
Total as per Summary Sheet (Grouping of items)	119,925,818	74,956,964
Less : Passage Benefits paid during the year	2,822,613	1,028,879
Acc. S.Leave paid during the year	1,360,069	411,841
Acc. V.Leave paid during the year	157,798	58,227
Contributions made by employer	7,610,303	4,680,766
	107,975,035	68,777,251
Add : Provision for Acc. Passage Benefits	3,719,846	1,899,675
Provision for Acc. Sick Leave	2,954,276	1,524,618
Provision for Acc. Vacation Leave	2,380,261	859,504
Contributions (IAS19-SICOM Ltd)	13,810,468	7,532,517
	130,839,886	80,593,565

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 18 Months Period ended 30 June 2017 (Continued)

11 Salaries and Related Expenses

	2016/17	2015
	Rs	Rs
1 Basic Salary	83,060,893	49,989,925
2 Wages/ Gratuity/Leaves	4,684,149	3,508,242
3 Allowance	526,957	382,030
4 Overtime	312,855	221,706
5 Contribution to SICOM/NPS	11,685,459	7,143,523
6 Travelling & Transport	7,666,882	5,358,099
7 Uniform	242,336	123,560
8 Cash in Lieu of Sick Leave	3,847,371	2,683,534
9 End of Year Bonus	4,876,761	4,474,011
10 Passage Benefits	2,803,155	1,042,334
11 Staff Welfare	219,000	30,000
	119,925,818	74,956,964

12 Administrative Cost

1 Fees to Board/Committee members	499,515	292,875
2 Fees for Training & Workshop	141,529	12,109
3 Women's Activities	1,445,667	187,930
4 Rent	1,841,400	1,227,600
5 Electricity	438,181	291,619
6 Telephone	489,867	287,299
7 Printing & Stationery	399,376	235,287
8 Postage	47,841	23,020
9 Publications	35,539	67,620
10 Office Sundries	118,798	146,357
11 Cleaning Services	93,443	46,983
12 Maintenance of Plant & Equipment	89,275	54,861
13 Maintenance of IT Equipment	19,362	3,448
14 Miscellaneous Expenses	50,000	10,147
15 Overseas Travel (Mission/Capacity Building)	238,005	335,390
16 Bank Charges	24,373	10,305
17 Fuel	142,062	110,107
18 Maintenance & Related Costs (Vehicle)	79,683	154,343
19 Accountancy Fees	47,700	93,700
20 Audit Fees	75,000	25,000
21 Legal Fees	27,600	28,750
22 Outsourcing of Payroll	628,984	239,352
23 Caravanne (Running Costs)	739,590	123,022
	7,712,790	4,007,124

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the 18 Months Period ended 30 June 2017 (Continued)

13 FIGURES FOR IAS 19 ADOPTION FOR : National Women's Council For period ending 30 June 2017

	18 Months Period ended 30.06.17 Rs	Year ended 31.12.15 Rs
Amounts recognised in balance sheet at end of year:		
Defined benefit obligation	191,735,754	149,837,958
(Fair value of plan assets)	(107,946,373)	(95,393,201)
Liability recognised in balance sheet at end of year	83,789,381	54,444,757
Amounts recognised in Income Statement:		
Service cost:		
Current service cost	12,958,953	7,406,844
Past service cost	0	0
(Employee Contributions)	(4,566,486)	(2,808,457)
Fund expenses	322,036	148,570
Net Interest expense/(income)	5,095,965	2,407,107
P&L Charge	13,810,468	7,154,064
Remeasurement		
Liability(gain) / loss	21,827,485	12,151,902
Assets (gain)/loss	1,316,974	5,756,836
Total Other Comprehensive Income(OCI) recognised	23,144,459	17,908,738
Total	36,954,927	25,062,802
Movements in liability recognised in balance sheet:		
At start of year	54,444,757	34,062,721
Amount recognised in P&L	13,810,468	7,154,064
(Contribution paid by employer)	(7,610,303)	(4,680,766)
Amount Recognised in OCI	23,144,459	17,908,738
At end of Year	83,789,381	54,444,757
Actual return on plan assets:	8,196,263	1,162,843

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 the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd.

