[Back to Contents](_001_Contents.docx)

**7.1 Grants - Rs 42.9 million**

***7.1.1 Annual Grant Memorandum***

During 2016-17, grants totalling Rs 42.9 million were disbursed to two Statutory Bodies - the Mauritius Sports Council (MSC) and the National Youth Council (NYC), and one Special Fund-the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports (TFES).

All the conditions, as specified in Financial Instructions on Administration of Government Grants, were not mentioned in the Annual Grant Memoranda signed between the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and the above organisations. These included the services to be delivered and service standards, and the cash/deposits with banks and other financial investments at start of the financial year.

* + 1. ***Non-Compliance with Conditions for Disbursement of Grants***
* Applications for disbursements of grants totalling Rs 14.5 million by the MSC were not submitted on the Standard Application Form;
* The above three Bodies did not submit all relevant documents to support the applications for grants. For instance, the MSC failed to submit the following to the Ministry;
* revised estimate of expenditure and revenue for the financial year;
* cash flow statements for last 12 months and cash flow forecast for the period to the end of the financial year;
* bank statements, showing bank balances in respect of bank accounts (other than that in which grants were transferred), held by the MSC;
* a progress report on delivery of outputs/services;
* Delays were noted in the submission of the Annual Reports to the Ministry by the MSC.

***Recommendation***

The Ministry should ensure that Financial Instructions are duly adhered to and all grant recipients comply with all the conditions laid down in the Grant Memoranda.

***Ministry’s Reply***

The Finance Section will henceforth ensure, among others, that all applications for disbursement of grants are made on the Standard Application Form and Grant Memoranda are properly filled in and signed prior to disbursement of funds.

The above three organisations have been urged to comply with the Financial Instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Statutory Bodies (Account and Audit) Act, regarding submission of accounts.

* 1. **Financial Assistance - Rs 86.9 million**

During 2016-17, financial assistance totalling Rs 86.9 million was provided to Football Clubs and Committees (Rs 20.4 million) and Sports Federations (Rs 66.5 million).

***7.2.1 Football Clubs and Committees***

Football Clubs and Committees were not complying with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry and the provisions laid down in the Sports Act in order to be eligible for financial assistance. Formal agreements were not signed for the period July 2016 to June 2017. According to the Ministry, this was due to the complexity in the implementation of the previously agreed terms and conditions.

Premier League football clubs did not submit information in respect of female football teams and youth teams.

* + 1. ***Sports Federations***

As of 30 June 2017, 48 National Sports Federations were in operation in Mauritius, including six Multi-Sport Organisations and one Statutory Body, and they benefited from grants from the Ministry. However, they did not all sign Performance Agreements nor submit their Audited Financial Statements and Insurance Policy Certificates, as required by the Sports Act and Guidelines issued by the Ministry*.*

***Recommendation***

The Ministry should ensure that the requirements of the Sports Act, as well as the conditions pertaining to the grant of financial assistance, are duly observed by Football Clubs and Committees, as well as all Federations.

***Ministry’s Reply***

For the year 2017-18, the terms and conditions for the disbursements of grants to Football Clubs and Committees have been reviewed and funds will be disbursed only on signature of the agreement by the parties concerned.

The Sports Sector has been reorganised and was being operated on a cluster-based approach with Sub - Directorates. The concept of Performance Agreement Forms has been scrapped and replaced by a yearly sports development plan and financial assistance to Sports Federations will be provided based on the different sub - Directorates.

**7.3 Renewal of Contract of Employment of Advisers/Coaches**

During the period April 1988 to May 2014, 16 Advisers/Coaches (Local) were recruited on a contract basis by the Ministry.

The terms of the engagement provide, among others, that the contract of employment will be for a period of one year as from assumption of duty and Government may, at any time, determine the employment by giving one month’s notice in writing or by paying one month’s salary. The Advisers/Coaches are entitled to payment of a gratuity equivalent to two months’ salary on completion of 12 months’ service, travelling, passage benefits and leave in accordance with regulations in force in the Public Service and recommendations contained in the Pay Research Bureau Report.

The following were observed:

* The contract of one Adviser/Coach was terminated on 23 January 2017, while those of two others which expired on 26 August 2017, were renewed up to 22 May 2018;
* In November 2016, the Ministry initiated procedures for renewal for a further period of one year of the contracts of 13 Advisers/Coaches. One contract expired on   
  8 November 2016, while the other 12 on 31 December 2016. In August 2017, the renewal of the 13 contracts for a period of one year was recommended. As of October 2017, more than nine months after expiry of these contracts, the Ministry had not yet submitted a formal request to the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms and the Prime Minister’s Office for the renewal of the contracts;

In the meantime, they were being paid salaries and were benefiting from travelling allowances, passage benefits and leave. A sum of some Rs 4.1 million was paid as salaries to these Advisers/Coaches, from date of expiry of their contract up to   
31 August 2017;

* A scrutiny of the contracts of five of the 13 Advisers/Coaches showed that the time taken between the renewal of their contracts since their first employment at the Ministry and the expiry of the existing contracts, ranged from three days to over nearly one and half years.

***Recommendation***

The terms of engagement, as laid down in the contract of employment of Advisers/Coaches, should be complied with.

***Ministry’s Reply***

The renewal of the contract of employment of the Advisers/ Coaches was purposely delayed because the Ministry was not satisfied with their current mode of appointment and an alternative contractual mode of employment under the Public Service Commission Regulations was being considered.

**7.4 Asset Management**

***7.4.1 Physical Asset Management System***

During 2016-17, the Ministry acquired assets worth some Rs 7.9 million.

The Office of Public Sector Governance was mandated to implement a project for the development of a computerised and online Fixed Asset Register in 2008. It was initially decided to apply the new system, Physical Asset Management System (PAMS) on a pilot basis at the Ministry as from November 2013. The level of inputs made in the PAMS could not be ascertained due to problems to log into the system and no report could thus be generated.

***Ministry’s Reply***

The input and recording of assets will be completed in the Government Asset Register, as soon as possible and the process will be supervised by an Assistant Permanent Secretary.

* + 1. ***State Lands Vested in the Ministry***

In January 2016, the MYS requested the Ministry of Housing and Lands (MHL) to submit an updated record of all plots of lands vested in the MYS (developed and undeveloped) to ensure that relevant projects, which need implementation, are carried out and plots of land which are no longer earmarked for development, be returned to the MHL.

In August 2017, following Government’s decision of 16 June 2017 in respect of status of State Lands, which had not yet been developed, the MHL requested the MYS to submit information as to whether the 10 undeveloped State Lands of a total extent of 128,613 m² vested in the Ministry during the period March 1995 to September 2014 would be developed, and if so, the time frame for their implementation and to confirm availability of funds. The MHL would then envisage to retrieve the land or not, following MYS’s reply. As of 31 December 2017, no reply was submitted by the MYS.

***Recommendation***

The MYS needs to identify projects to be implemented on undeveloped State Lands vested in the Ministry and define the time frame for their implementation as well as availability of funds.

***Ministry’s Reply***

It was necessary for the Ministry to assess the situation, case by case, before deciding which sites were necessary for future sports development. The MYS intends to reply to the MHL by the end of January 2018.

**7.5 Procurement of Goods and Services**

***7.5.1 Security Services - Rs 8.2 million***

During 2016-17, payments totalling some Rs 8.2 million were made to Contractor A and Contractor B for theprovision of security services in respect of 58 Sports Complexes/Youth Centres. The two contracts were awarded in July 2013 for   
Rs 13.2 million and Rs 1.8 million for periods of 20 and 18 months respectively.

* Both contracts were subsequently renewed on a month to month basis as from 1 April 2015. New bids were launched through Open Advertised National Bidding method in June 2016, that is, more than a year after the expiry of the contracts. In November 2016, decision was taken to cancel and to re-launch the bids due to their complexity, technical requirements and unsatisfactory points raised;
* In February 2017, the Ministry again invited bids through the Open Advertised National Bidding method. Contractor A issued a Challenge against the award of the contract to Contractor C and the Independent Review Panel ordered the annulment of the decision to award the contract and a re-evaluation of the bids. In September 2017, the Ministry maintained its decision to award the contract to Contractor C after obtaining legal advice from the Attorney General’s Office and ruling of the Procurement Policy Office (PPO);
* Pending the award of the new contracts, the existing two contracts were renewed on a month to month basis for a period of 31 months. Payments totalling Rs 21.8 million were made to Contractors A (Rs 19.5 million) and B (Rs 2.3 million) for the period   
  1 April 2015 to 31 October 2017.

***Recommendation***

The Ministry should ensure that procedures for the award of new contracts are initiated within a reasonable timeframe before expiry of existing contracts and all conditions of contract are duly complied with.

***Ministry’s Reply***

The contract for security services was awarded on 21 September 2017 to Contractor C for a sum of Rs 24.2 million for an initial period of 12 months and renewable thereafter for another 24 months upon being satisfactorily rated by the Ministry.

* + 1. ***Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fleet Management System and GPS Devices and Accessories - Rs 3.2 million.***

In March 2016, the above contract was awarded to Contractor D for the sum of   
Rs 3.1 million.

* Contractor D neither submitted Monthly Progress Reports nor Test Plans, with test data used and test results to the Ministry, as per Technical Specifications;

* The number of days for delivery from the date of Purchase Order or the Letter of Acceptance was not specified in the Conditions of Contract, as required in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) issued by the PPO for the Procurement of Goods - Restricted Bidding;
* There was no documentary evidence to ascertain that all outstanding issues relating to commissioning of the Fleet Management System and GPS devices/accessories were cleared.

***Recommendation***

The Ministry should ensure that all the terms and conditions of contract are complied with and that all outstanding and defective works are duly attended by the Contractor prior to release of final payments.

***Ministry’s Reply***

The commissioning of the Fleet Management System and GPS Devices and accessories was duly effected by Central Information System Division and the Contractor.

**7.6 Non compliance with Terms and Compliance of Contract**

***7.6.1 Practical Completion of Works and Defects***

The notes of the site meeting relating to the Practical Taking Over of the Cite La Cure Youth Centre on 9 January 2017 were not signed. During a site visit effected by my Officers on 17 August 2017, it was observed that leakage in the middle of the main hall of the Youth Centre had not yet been attended by the Contractor.

In May 2017, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport reported that heavy rainfall led to a substantial volume of water to enter the site through the access gate, adjacent to the gas station, flooding substantial part of the synthetic track. There was also deterioration to the asphalt concrete base, which was due among others, to insufficient drainage, rise of ground moisture, bad workmanship and defective materials. As of January 2018, remedial works were still not executed. Quotations for additional works were yet to be submitted by the Contractor.

***7.6.2* *Test Certificates***

The relevant results for water tests at Cite La Cure Youth Centre were not produced. The duly signed test certificates for electrical and mechanical installations, as well as the drawings and manuals were also missing. The test certificates and ‘as fitted’ drawings relating to the contract for Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium were also not produced.

There was no documentary evidence to ascertain that water tests and a survey of the levels of soil were carried out prior to start of the renovation worksat the Auguste Vollaire Stadium*.*

***7.6.3* *Warranty/Guarantee Certificates***

The one-year Warranty Certificate for the air extraction system at Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium was not available. The Guarantee Certificates for electrical installation and water proofing system at the Cite La Cure Youth Centre were missing.

***7.6.4 Insurance Policy***

The period of insurance relating to the construction at the Youth Centre at Cite La Cure was not specified in the Conditions of Contract, as provided in the Standard Bidding Document for procurement of works issued by PPO. The insurance period expired on   
20 October 2017 and did not cover the end of the Defects Liability Period which ended on 9 January 2018.

***Recommendation***

The Ministry should ensure that all the terms and conditions of contract are complied with and that all outstanding and defective works are duly attended by the Contractor before release of final payments.

***Ministry’s Reply***

Additional works not executed, were not entertained for the time being, since funds had to be sought, and that an extension of time would be expected. The Auguste Vollaire Stadium would be renovated under the ‘Association for Upgrading of Indian Ocean Islands Games Infrastructure’, in the context of the Indian Ocean Islands Games 2019.

It would, henceforth, be ensured that the certificates and ‘as fitted’ drawings are obtained prior to effecting final payment. Snags would be attended to before issuing the final taking over certificate.

* 1. **Sports and Youth Infrastructure**

The Ministry has a pool of 75 Sports and Youth Infrastructures across the island, comprising swimming pools, gymnasiums/sports complexes, stadiums, football grounds, youth centres, residential training centres and other sports infrastructures.   
44 infrastructures are managed by the Ministry, while the remaining 31 fall under the responsibility of the MSC (28) and of Sports Federations (3).

* + 1. ***Database and Records of Infrastructures***
* The Ministry did not have a complete database of all of its infrastructures. Only a list of its infrastructures was being kept. Relevant information, such as, date of construction, cost involved and the state of the infrastructure were missing;
* Stores Ledgers were not properly kept at all the outstations. Inventory Sheets were not signed and affixed in the respective location;
* No Unserviceable Ledger was maintained at the outstations. No documentary evidence was submitted in respect of unserviceable/obsolete items returned to the Main Store;
* There was no evidence that annual surveys were carried out at the outstations.
  + 1. ***Maintenance Policy and Plan***

As of January 2018, the Ministry has not yet finalised the maintenance policy which was drafted since June 2011.During the past three years, the Ministry had disbursed some   
Rs 35 million as maintenance costs. Repairs were being done as and when required. Hence, the Ministry was again focusing more on reactive maintenance. The Ministry has, so far, not prepared a maintenance plan for its different infrastructures.

* + 1. ***State of Youth and Sports Infrastructures***

In June/ July 2017, surveys were carried out by Officers of the Youth and Sports Sections on the general condition of the Youth and Sports infrastructures to get inputs concerning recurrent maintenance issues. The survey forms of only 34 of the 75 infrastructures surveyed were traced in the Ministry’s files;

During the site visits carried out by my Officers in July, August and September 2017, several problems which were noted during the surveys performed by the Ministry in June/July 2017, were still unattended. Other defects were also noted.

*Stadiums*

The roofs of stadiums at Belle Vue Harel (Anjalay) and Flacq (Auguste Vollaire) were deteriorating, with the roof structure corroded and leaking, resulting in accumulation of water in the stands and slippery surfaces, with risks of degradation of the structure and injury to the public;

The windbreakers at Anjalay Stadium were rusted and damaged. Some seats were broken and there were also birds’ nests;

At the Auguste Vollaire Stadium, there were cracks in the stands and the synthetic track was flooded in May 2017 after heavy rain as the drains were saturated and were not performing properly;

At Sir Harry Latour Stadium, there were cracks on the newly constructed stand and water accumulated in some places;

Some flood lights were found to be defective in some stadiums.

*Youth Centres/Complexes*

There were structural cracks in some buildings leading to water leakages in the gymnasiums, main halls and other places;

Some playing surfaces were damaged and several items of equipment (fitness, solar heater, generator, air extractors) were defective or out of order/unserviceable;

Several flood/fog/spot lights, as well as emergency lights, were defective;

Some toilets, bathrooms and changing rooms were in a deplorable state;

The fencing, surrounding some centres/complexes was damaged and rusty.

*Swimming Pools*

At Serge Alfred Swimming Pool, the roof was rusted at some places and water was overflowing from the toilet. Some water liners were damaged;

At Souvenir Swimming Pool, water was infiltrating the roof of the Technical Chamber causing bursting of the concrete and rusting of iron bars and oxidization of equipment. One of the water pumps was out of order and sand filters were leaking;

At Riviere du Rempart Swimming Pool, water was leaking from the roof of the Changing Room and through the wall of the basement to the staircase while the roof of the stand was rusted;

At Le Pavillon Swimming Pool, three Thermal Covers were lying in the Deck/Yard exposed to adverse weather conditions. Chemical solution was stored in the Technical Chamber or near the Administrative Block, hence, representing health hazards.

***Recommendations***

* The records pertaining to the assets of the Ministry should be updated and a complete database of its infrastructures should be kept;
* The Ministry should finalise its Maintenance Policy and Plan, so as to ensure that all its infrastructures are properly maintained and kept in good condition;
* A Remedial Action Plan to address urgent issues and problems, together with the funding required and time frame should be worked out by the Ministry pending the finalisation of its maintenance plan.

***Ministry’s Reply***

Remedial action would be taken concerning the records and the database of infrastructures.

A Technical Committee, comprising an Architect, a Civil Engineer, an Electrical Engineer, a Quantity Surveyor and a Technical Officer, would be set up to prepare and execute the maintenance plan.

As regards Youth and Sports infrastructure, some of these are old and worn out despite measures taken to maintain them.

[Back to Contents](_001_Contents.docx)