

**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021/2022**

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection is pleased to present its Annual Report on Performance for financial year 2021/22.

Besides being a requirement of the Finance and Audit Act, the Annual Report on Performance enables the Ministry to showcase and inform about its role and functions, main activities, programmes and measures implemented during the fiscal year. It also assists in the evaluation of the Ministry's performance against the key actions and measures set out in Budget 2021/22.

The Annual Report on Performance is a mechanism to promote transparency, accountability and good governance which in turn will lead to more efficient and effective performance.

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection hopes that the Report will be useful to its customers, other stakeholders as well as to members of the public at large.

The Annual Report has been structured as per the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development as follows:

Part I: Overview of the Ministry

1

The vision, mission, role and main functions of the Ministry as well as the Statutory Bodies under its purview are spelt out in this chapter.

Part II: Achievements and Challenges

2

Part II contains the major achievements, status on the implementation of key actions and budget measures for the financial year. It also includes a plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Director of Audit.

Part III: Financial Performance

3

Part III provides the financial highlights, including the statements of expenditure and revenue together with an analysis of major changes which occurred.

Part IV: Way Forward

4

Part IV highlights the trends and challenges and the strategic directions of the Ministry.

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STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER

At the very outset, it is worth underlining that the global economy has been facing major challenges since early 2020, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and later on by the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Unfortunately, many countries have borne the brunt of these global turmoil and the Republic of Mauritius is no exception. These back-to-back situations have without any doubt had an adverse effect on the local supply of essential commodities, bearing in mind that we are highly dependent on importation of such products.



The scarcity of essential commodities coupled with the appreciation of foreign currencies and the increase in other costs associated with imports have obviously affected the consumers' purchasing power.

In the face of such a difficult situation, staying idle and waiting for better days was not an option. We had to find bold ways and means to bounce back and lend a helping hand to our population. Hence, Government, through the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, has put in place a series of measures and incentives to give maximum possible support to our fellow citizens. And the results of the effort put in by my Ministry are tangible.

Thanks to the intervention of Government through a significant subsidy of Rs 1.35 billion, from July 2021 to end of June 2022, every Mauritian family, without any distinction, has been able to have access to an array of seven categories of basic commodities (comprising not less than 371 brands) at the same lower price which was applicable in January 2021.

Unfortunately, it would have been economically difficult to maintain these subsidies amidst a very challenging economic situation. But my Ministry has come up with the courageous decision of introducing the

maximum mark-up system varying from 20% to 25% on 12 additional essential commodities.

Added to that, the 2022-2023 national Budget provides Rs 500 million to allow our trading arm – the State Trading Corporation – to import and commercialise commodities, such as edible oil, powdered milk and pulses. The availability of essential products is important, but consumer protection also plays a prominent role in my Ministry’s mandate. I am proud, as Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection, that we are implementing a revised version and vision of the Price Observatory. And this time, the public will be able to benefit from the advantages of a mobile application which will allow for a better visibility and comparison of prices being proposed for certain products in different trading premises across the country. This system will for sure give rise to a win-win situation as it will enable consumers to make a wise and enlightened choice while at the same time promoting competition among traders.

Here, I must also pay tribute to the huge contribution of the officers of the Consumer Affairs Unit of my Ministry who are sparing no effort regarding the market surveillance. These officers are constantly on the field, effecting regular visits in trade premises all over the island to enforce legislations for protection of the consumers. In this respect, officers of the CAU make sure that approved retail prices are respected and that price labels are affixed to prevent abuse and malpractices.

My Ministry remains committed to be by the side of the population, particularly in difficult times, and continuously work towards an increased consumer protection, fair trade and competition.

Hon S.S.Callichurn
Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection

STATEMENT FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

The financial year under review has come on the heels of a difficult year marred by the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic and later by the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict.

The Mauritius' economic landscape has, thus, not been spared from the ensuing financial and economic crisis. As a result, there has been a spike in global inflation hugely impacted with sharp hikes in the prices of fuel and food. As per Statistics Mauritius, the headline inflation spiked from 2.5 % in 2020 to 4% in 2021 and the headline inflation rate as at September 2022 has reached 9.4 %.

Yet, in many ways, these challenges have stimulated the whole team at the Ministry to put their minds together and find immediate and workable solutions so as not to penalise our stakeholders. The ensuing paragraphs highlight our significant achievements during the financial year 2021-2022.

In July 2021, in order to protect consumers and reduce their burden against soaring prices caused by these external factors, a subsidy mechanism on seven categories of essential commodities, comprising 371 brands of Pulses, Canned Fish, Canned Tomatoes, Edible oil, Milk Powder, Margarine and Cheese was introduced. The scheme which was initially for six months with a subsidy envelope of Rs 500 million was extended up to 30 June 2022 with a total of Rs 1.35 billion as subsidy.

In order to give consumers more visibility on prices in a basket comprising 100 categories of the most widely used products, the Price Observatory has been re-established in September 2021. A mobile application is also being developed so as to enable consumers to customize their own basket of goods and make wiser purchase decisions.

Being the prime agency for consumer protection, the Consumer Affairs Unit has been on the front-line with more stringent market surveillance. The Consumer Affairs Unit have effected 9432 checks around the island. The Legal Metrology Services has verified and calibrated 15,698 instruments and visited around 1,568 trade premises. The Trade Division has issued 7952 import permits and 1953 export permits in respect of restricted goods under Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017. A total of 170 permits/clearances have also been issued in respect of scrap metal. Amendments have also been brought to the Consumer Protection (Scrap Metal) Regulations to allow scrap metal exporters to export copper waste and scrap under certain conditions. As regards trade in bunker fuels, 594,911 MT of bunker fuels have been supplied to 1906 vessels for a total revenue of Rs 1,400,000.

Despite the extremely exigent economic situation during the financial year 2021-2022, I would say that the performance of the Ministry has been meritorious. On this note, I express my appreciation to the Honourable Minister for his continuous support and direction. I also commend the staff of the Ministry for their work, perseverance and collective achievements.

D. M. Mathur-Dabidin (Mrs)
Permanent Secretary



PART I :
**OVERVIEW OF THE
MINISTRY**



Vision Statement

- ❖ Safeguarding a conducive commercial environment and effective protection of consumers.



Mission Statement

- ❖ To provide the right framework for trade facilitation and promote healthy competition.
- ❖ To ensure consumer protection and continuity in the supply of essential commodities.



Core Values

- ❖ **Integrity** – We are guided by the highest standards of professional ethics.
- ❖ **Quality** – We are result-oriented and committed to providing services of the highest quality to our customers.
- ❖ **Timeliness** – We are responsive and strive to meet set targets.
- ❖ **Teamwork** – We foster teamwork and value mutual trust and respect.
- ❖ **Honesty** – We always act in good faith and with fairness.

Role and Functions of the Ministry

Role

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection is responsible to formulate, implement and review policies and strategies to facilitate commerce and trade, to ensure consumer protection as well as a regular supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices.

Key Functions

- ❖ To issue import and export permits and other clearances for restricted goods.
- ❖ To issue licences to authorised dealers in imported second-hand vehicles and scrap metal operators.
- ❖ To ensure regular supply of essential commodities and monitor prices of controlled goods.
- ❖ To promote and protect the interests and rights of the consumers through legal and institutional framework.
- ❖ To regulate weights and measuring instruments used in trade.
- ❖ To authorise the holding of trade fairs and exhibitions.
- ❖ To fix the prices of basic and essential commodities as well as controlled goods.

Brief Overview of Sections/Units of the Ministry

Trade Division

The Trade Division is the technical arm of the Ministry for all matters related to trade practices and the implementation of trade policies. The Division deals mainly with the importation and exportation of controlled goods, the licensing of authorized dealers for the importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles and the accreditation and monitoring of the scrap metal sector.

Furthermore, the Trade Division is the recognized authority for the Registered Exporter System (REX) for Norway and Switzerland, and also for the issue of the following certificates:

- COMESA Certificates of Origin
- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Certificates
- Textile Export Visa Certificates
- Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Certificates
- Kimberly Process Certificates

Legal Metrology Services

The Legal Metrology Services (LMS) is responsible for the calibration and maintenance of measurement standards, which are traceable to International Standards. It enforces the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act to ensure that weighing and measuring instruments used in trade and the pre-packing of commodities conform to legal requirements. It operates a mobile verification service and also offers an on-request calibration service to the industry with respect to mass, length and volume. The mass laboratory is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 by MAURITAS.

The services provided by the LMS are, *inter-alia*, as follows:

- Assizing (verification and stamping) of weighing and measuring instruments used in trade;
- Granting certificates of suitability to importers and manufacturers of weighing instruments;
- Calibrating weighing and measuring instruments for industry and other organizations;
- Calibrating storage tanks and vehicle tanks, diesel meters, flow meters;
- Supervising the use of weighing and measuring instruments in trade;
- Controlling the net contents of pre-packed goods to ensure that they are properly labelled and contain the quantity declared on the packages as per the Legal Metrology Act;
- Investigating complaints relating to weights and measures; and
- Providing advice in the field of measurements.

Consumer Affairs Unit

Being a dedicated unit, which caters for the protection of consumers in general, the Consumer Affairs Unit (CAU) has the responsibility of enforcing the various consumer legislations as well as providing overall consumer satisfaction and security. It also has the mission of ensuring that stakeholders thriving within a competitive business environment are aware of consumer rights as well as the responsibilities and obligations of the business community towards them.

The objectives of the CAU are, *inter-alia*, as follows:

- to protect consumers against malpractices through enforcement of laws;
- to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities;
- to settle disputes between traders and consumers by mutual agreement or in case of deadlock through a court of justice;
- carry out checks in trade premises for the enforcement of consumer laws; and
- to update existing laws to meet new challenges.

Price Fixing Unit

The Price Fixing Unit (PFU) exercises price control over certain essential commodities for the protection and welfare of consumers in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Prices of certain basic products, such as long grain white rice, flour and scheduled bread are fixed under maximum price regulations. In order to enable consumers to have other essential products at affordable prices and prevent traders from profiteering, price control is also exercised on other products, including, *inter-alia*, blood glucose strips, corned beef, corned mutton, imported fresh fruits, infant milk powder, pharmaceutical products and pilchards which are under maximum mark-ups ranging from 15% to 45%.

Since June 2017, the PFU has been computerized and the Price Fixing Information System (PFIS) is in operation. The system allows online submission of returns by importers and online approval of prices. Importers of these items have to submit their costings on the PFIS. The PFU then examines and verifies the returns of cost submitted by importers and, thereafter, the approved retail prices are communicated to the importers via the PFIS itself.

The PFU also verifies costings submitted by the PFU of Rodrigues and prepares regulations to fix prices of commodities controlled under the Maximum Price and the Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non -taxable Goods) Regulations 1998.

The PFU tracks those importers who do not submit their returns of cost or submit same after the prescribed period of 10 working days. These importers are then contravened by the Consumer Affairs Unit of the Ministry.

Price Observatory

In July 2021, the Price Observatory was re-established to provide consumers with more visibility on prices of essential products so as to enable them to make more informed and rationale buying decisions. Subsequently, the Consumer Protection (Price Observatory Committee) Regulations 2021 was promulgated with effect from 03 September 2021.

The main aim of the Price Observatory is to monitor the evolution of retail prices of commodities consisting of both food and non-food products and provide an interactive communication platform for the information, protection and education of consumers in order to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of the consumers through legal and institutional framework.

The main objectives of the Price Observatory are to:

- ✓ set up a basket of at least 100 commodities (food and non-food products) which are most widely used by consumers comprising some 450 brands across 51 retail outlets.
- ✓ study the price evolution of the commodities and, where there is a rise in the price of any of the commodities, enquire into the reason thereof.
- ✓ undertake research regarding prices of the commodities.
- ✓ publish, on a monthly basis, the price of the commodities.

KEY LEGISLATIONS

Main Acts

1. The Consumer Protection Act 1991
2. The Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act 1998
3. Legal Metrology Act 1985
4. The Fair Trading Act 1980
5. The Hire Purchase and Credit Sale Act 1964
6. The Competition Act 2007

Main Regulations

1. Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) Regulations 1998
2. Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-up) Regulations 1998
3. Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-Taxable Goods) Regulations 1998
4. Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017
5. Consumer Protection (Export Control) Regulations 2000
6. Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2004
7. Consumer Protection (Control of Fairs) Regulations 2016
8. Consumer Protection (Scrap Metal) Regulations 2019

9. Consumer Protection (Use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas in Small Cylinders) Regulations 2012
10. Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-Taxable Goods) Regulations 1998
11. Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Chilled, Fresh and Guttred Fish) (Maximum Price) Regulations 2018
12. Price Control (Rodrigues) Regulations 1977
13. The Consumer Protection (Safety Requirements) Regulations 2017
14. Toys (Safety) Regulations 1994
15. Consumer Protection (Control of Sale of Imported Live Animals for Home Slaughter) Regulations 1998
16. Consumer Protection (Control of Manufacture and Sale of Bread) Regulations 2018
17. Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Petroleum Products) Regulations 2011
18. Basmati Rice (Control of Sale) Regulations 2012
19. The Legal Metrology (Assize) Regulations 1990

STATUTORY BODIES UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE MINISTRY

1. Competition Commission

The Competition Commission is a statutory body set up in November 2009 under section 4 of the Competition Act 2007.

The Competition Act 2007 established a competition regime in Mauritius, under which the Competition Commission investigate possible anticompetitive behaviours by businesses and take remedial actions if required. Anticompetitive behaviours, also called restrictive business practices, can be in the form of cartels, abuse of monopoly positions and mergers that lead to substantial lessening of competition.

The Competition Commission has two independent arms: an investigative arm led by the Executive Director and an adjudicative arm led by the Commission, which comprises five Commissioners.

The core functions of the Competition Commission are, *inter alia*, to:

- keep the operation of markets in Mauritius and the conditions of competition in those markets under constant review;
- investigate any suspected breach of the prohibition of restrictive agreements;
- undertake general studies on the effectiveness of competition in individual sectors of the economy in Mauritius;
- liaise and exchange information, knowledge and expertise with competition authorities in other countries entrusted with functions similar to those of the Competition Commission;
- advise the Minister on international agreements relevant to competition matters and to this Act; and
- publish and otherwise promote and advertise the provisions of the Act and the activities of the Competition Commission.

The composition of the Competition Commission is as follows:

Position	Name	Date joining	Appointing Authority
Chairperson	Mr Mahmad Aleem Bocus	25.02.21 for a period of 5 years	The President of the Republic of Mauritius in line with the provision of the Competition Act
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Désiré Pierre Alberto Mariette	16.09.21 for a period of 5 years	
Commissioners	Mrs. Vedwantee Bikhoo	16.09.21 for a period of 5 years	
	Mrs. Sharda Devi Dindoyal	16.09.21 for a period of 5 years	
	<i>One Commissioner vacant</i>		

Table 1 : Competition Commission

The Executive Director is Mr D. Kowlessur who has been appointed on 01 April 2020 for a period of three years.

2. State Trading Corporation

The State Trading Corporation was established under the State Trading Corporation Act 1982. It is a parastatal body and the trading arm of Government. The Headquarters of the State Trading Corporation is located in Ebene Cybercity.

The State Trading Corporation is engaged in the importation of essential commodities, such as Petroleum Products, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Rice and Flour and any such commodity as the Government may decide.

The main objectives of the State Trading Corporation are as follows:

- (a) to import and supply strategic products;
- (b) to enhance the logistics to secure continuity of supply of strategic products; and
- (c) to ensure end-to-end Consumer Excellence whilst safeguarding the environment.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

The Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection is the political head of the Ministry and determines its policies and strategic direction.

The administrative head of the Ministry is the Permanent Secretary. He is assisted in his functions and duties by one Deputy Permanent Secretary, three Assistant Permanent Secretaries as well as officers of other units, such as the Trade Division, Consumer Affairs Unit, Legal Metrology Services, Human Resources Unit and Financial Operations.

The organisational chart of the Ministry is depicted in the figure below:

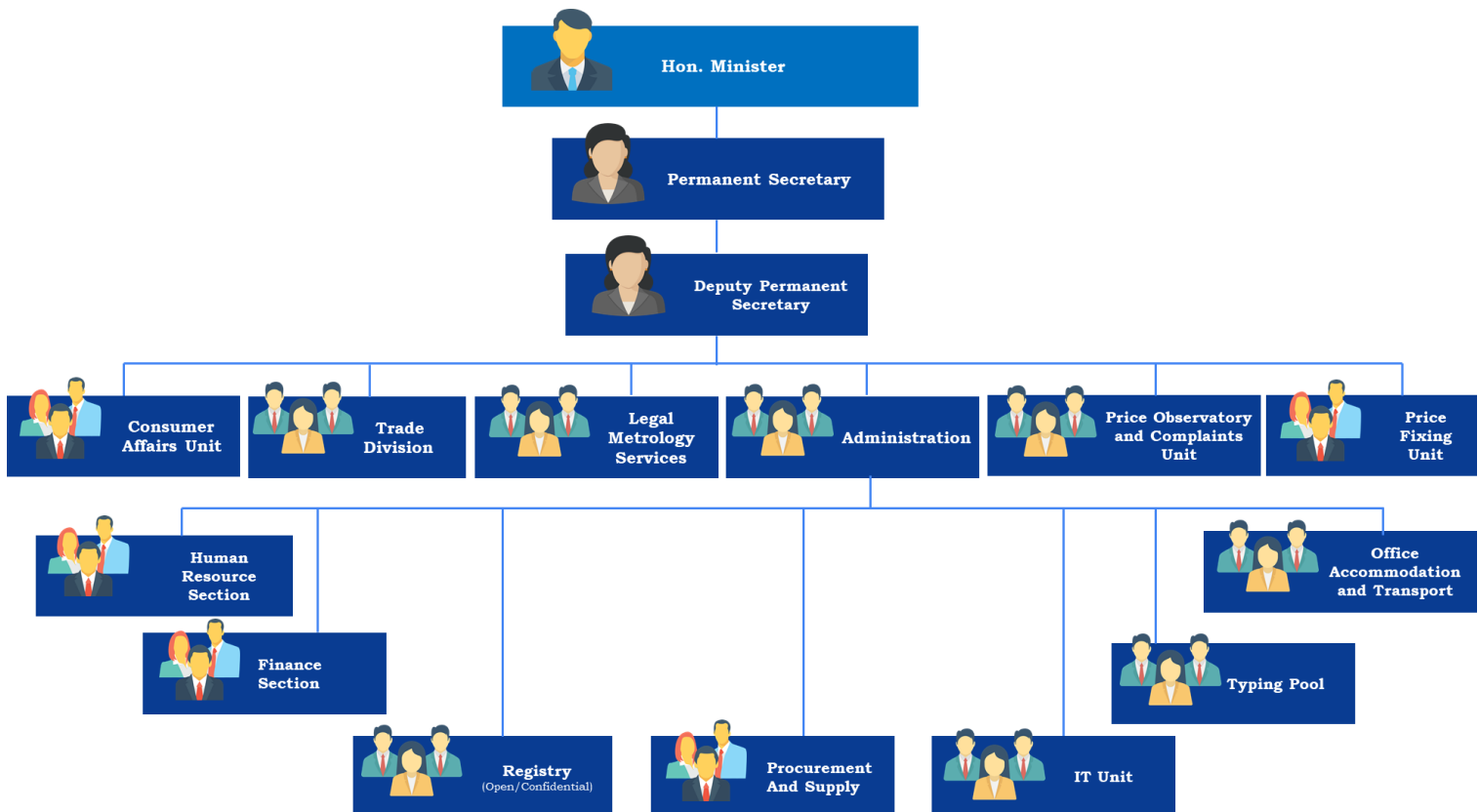


Figure 1 : Organisational Chart

As at 30 June 2022, the personnel of the Ministry comprised the following Officers:

Employees	Number		
	Male	Female	Total
Permanent Secretary	1	-	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	-	1	1
Assistant Permanent Secretary	2	1	3
Adviser on Information Matters	1	-	1
Director, Legal Metrology Services	-	1	1
Deputy Director, Legal Metrology Service	-	1	1
Legal Metrologist	2	-	2
Legal Metrology Officer	5	-	5
Senior Technical Officer (Legal Metrology)	1	-	1
Technical Officer (Legal Metrology)	2	-	2
Senior Analyst (Trade)	1	1	2
Analyst (Trade)	2	2	4
Analyst/Senior Analyst (Financial)	1	1	2
Head, Consumer Affairs Officer	1	-	1
Principal Consumer Affairs Officer	1	-	1
Senior Consumer Affairs Officer	1	3	4
Consumer Affairs Officer	11	8	19
Commercial Officer	1	-	1
Assistant Commercial Officer	1	-	1
Statistical Officer	1	-	1
Human Resources Cadre	1	1	2
Financial Operations Cadre	-	5	5
Procurement and Supply Cadre	-	1	1
Computer System Analyst	1	1	2
Office Management Executive	1	3	4
Office Management Assistant	-	8	8
Office Supervisor	-	1	1
Management Support Officer	14	30	44
Confidential Secretary	-	3	3
Word Processing Operator	-	3	3

Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1	2	3
Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	5	4	9
Driver	6	-	6
Driver (Mechanical Unit)	2	-	2
Laboratory Auxiliary	3	-	3
Helper	2	-	2
General Worker	1	-	1
Intern under the Service to Mauritius Programme	1	2	3
TOTAL	73	83	156

Table 2 : Number of employees as at 30 June 2022

The gender distribution of the employees is shown below:

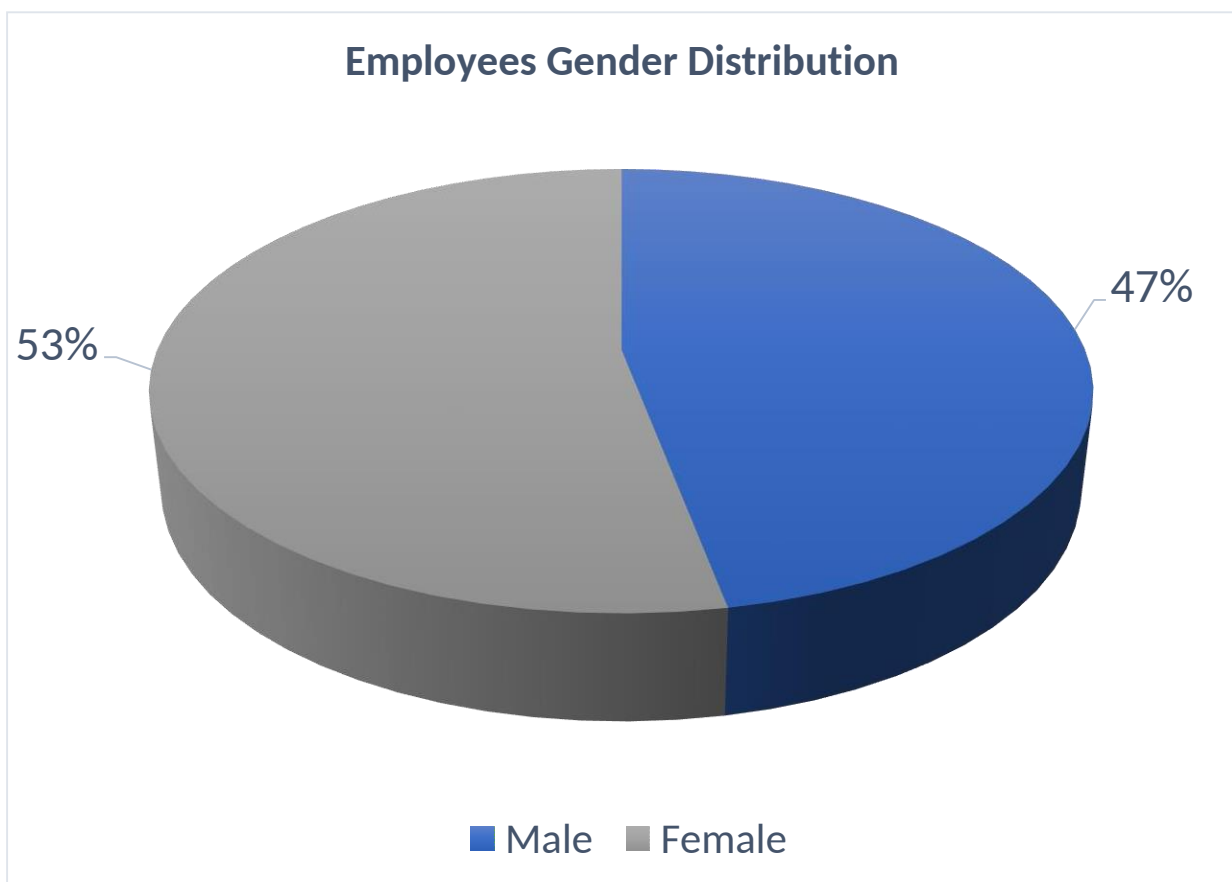


Figure 2 : Employees Gender Distribution

Recruitment

During the financial year, the following officers joined the Ministry:

- 2 Office Auxiliaries/Senior Office Auxiliaries
- 7 Management Support Officers
- 1 Computer Support Officer
- 1 Intern under the Service to Mauritius Programme

Promotion

The following officers got promoted during the year:

- 1 Senior Consumer Affairs Officer was promoted to Principal Consumer Affairs Officer in November 2021.
- 2 Consumer Affairs Officers were promoted to Senior Consumer Affairs Officers in December 2021 and March 2022 respectively.
- 2 Management Support Officers were appointed as Assistant Procurement and Supply officers in April 2022.
- 1 Procurement and Supply Officer was promoted to Principal Procurement and Supply Officer in April 2022.
- 1 Legal Metrology Officer was appointed Legal Metrologist in a temporary capacity as from May 2022.
- 1 Management Support Officer was appointed Assistant Financial Operations Officer in June 2022.

Retirement

The following officers retired from the service during the year:

SN	Name of Officer and Grade	Date of Retirement
1.	Mr S. Nursimulu, Manager, Financial Operations	03 March 2022
2.	Mr B. Gya, Principal Consumer Affairs Officer	01 September 2021
3.	Mr N.H. Sukhari, Senior Consumer Affairs Officer	27 December 2021
4.	Mr M.Y. Khadaroo, Consumer Affairs Officer	23 December 2021
5.	Mrs M. Mohit, Office Management Executive	06 April 2022
6.	Mr L. Bhoobun, Management Support Officer	13 September 2021
7.	Mrs M.S.K.D. Sundanum, Management Support Officer	04 March 2022

Table 3 : Officers Retired from Service

Human Resource Development

The Ministry is committed to the development of its human resources. As requested by the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, a Training Committee was set up and an elaborated plan for the training of the staff was prepared. Local training was organised mostly in collaboration with the Civil Service College. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff could not travel to attend training or workshops abroad. However, they had the opportunity to follow same online.

Local Training

The list of training programmes together with the number of employees who attended same is shown in tabulated below:

SN	Training/Workshop/Seminar	Number of Beneficiaries	Grade of the Officers
1.	Training on First Aid – Civil Service College	4	OMA, WPO, MSO, LMO
2.	Training on Safety and Health at the workplace – Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms	12	OMA, MSO, OA/SOA, General Worker, Helper
3.	Training on Business Continuity Management and Work from Home – Civil Service College	5	APS, MHR, PCAO, Senior Analyst (Trade), Analyst (Trade)
4.	Training on Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management - Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms	6	MSO, Legal Metrologist, Technical Officer (LM)
5.	Training on Gender Mainstreaming – Civil Service College	2	MHR, OA/SOA
6.	Training on International Conventions relating to Gender Based Violence – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade	1	Analyst (Trade)
7.	Workshop on Sandbox Framework for Adoption of Innovative Technologies	1	DPS

8.	Training Programme for Support Staff – Civil Service College	10	MSO, OMA, CS, Receptionist/Telephone Operator
9.	Training Programme for Workmen’s Group – Civil Service College	3	Office Auxiliary
10	Induction Courses – Civil Service College	8	MSO, OA, OS, CS, WPO
11	Training Programme for Frontline/Supervisory/Technical Grade – Civil Service College	1	OMA
TOTAL		53	

Table 4 : Local Training Programmes

Virtual Training

The list of online training attended by the officers during the Financial Year 2021-2022 is shown in the table below.

SN	Training/Workshop/Seminar	Number of Beneficiaries	Grade of the Officers
1.	African Regional Trade Professional Certificate – American University in Cairo	1	Analyst (Trade)
2.	Regional course on Understanding the Indian Ocean – Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia	1	Deputy Permanent Secretary
3.	Public Administration Management for Civil Servants of African Countries	1	Deputy Permanent Secretary
4.	E-commerce: An opportunity to reinvent the economy	1	Analyst (Trade)
5.	Course on Transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas – Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme	2	Analyst & Analyst (Trade)

6.	Webinar on the ICN Steering Group's Project on the intersection between competition, consumer protection and privacy	2	Senior Analyst (Trade) & Consumer Affairs Officer
7.	Workshop on Import Licensing and Notifications – World Trade Organisation	1	Analyst (Trade)
8.	Kaizen Change Model in Public Sector – Kaizen Institute of India	2	APS & PCAO
9.	South-South Cooperation in Cross-border E-commerce for Poverty Eradication and Global Sustainable Development	2	Senior Analyst (Trade)
10.	AFCFTA Negotiations on Competition Policy – AFCFTA Secretariat, Ghana	1	Analyst (Trade)
11.	Cross-border E-commerce Cooperation for Developing Countries-China	5	APS, Analyst (Trade), Analyst
12.	Course on Trade Food Security and Nutrition – United Nations Institute for Training and Research	2	APS & Analyst (Trade)
	TOTAL	21	

Table 5 : Online Training Programme

Gender Policy Statement

This Ministry supports Government's initiative for gender mainstreaming in all policy areas. This initiative is in line with Government commitments taken at international level especially at the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995.

In line with the National Gender Policy Framework of 2008 which calls upon all Ministries to engender their respective policies, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection has established a Gender Cell and a Gender Focal Point to foster gender mainstreaming in all policy decisions, programmes and activities. The Ministry also ensures that women are represented in decision-making and in all Boards and Committees. Both male and female employees are guaranteed equality of treatment. The staff has also been provided training on gender mainstreaming and equality.

In furtherance of this initiative, the Ministry proposes to develop a sectoral Gender Policy Statement and Action Plan to guide its strategies, objectives and operations.



Staff Welfare

The Ministry in collaboration with the Staff Welfare Association organised the following activities during the year for the welfare of the employees:

Diwali Celebrations – October 2021

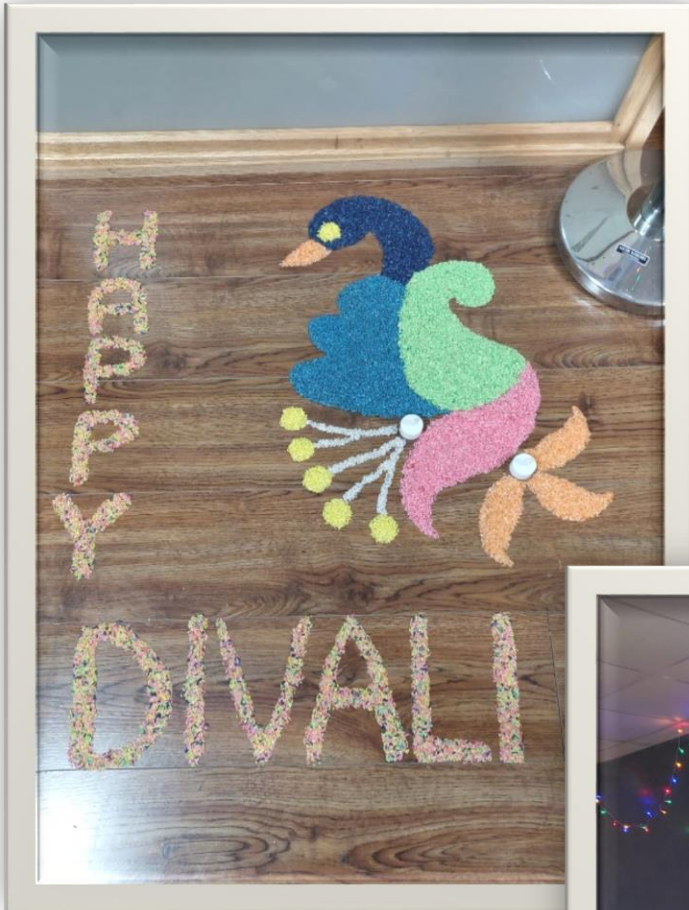


Figure 3 : Divali Celebrations

Visit and Donation to the Shelter for Women and Children in Distress – November 2021



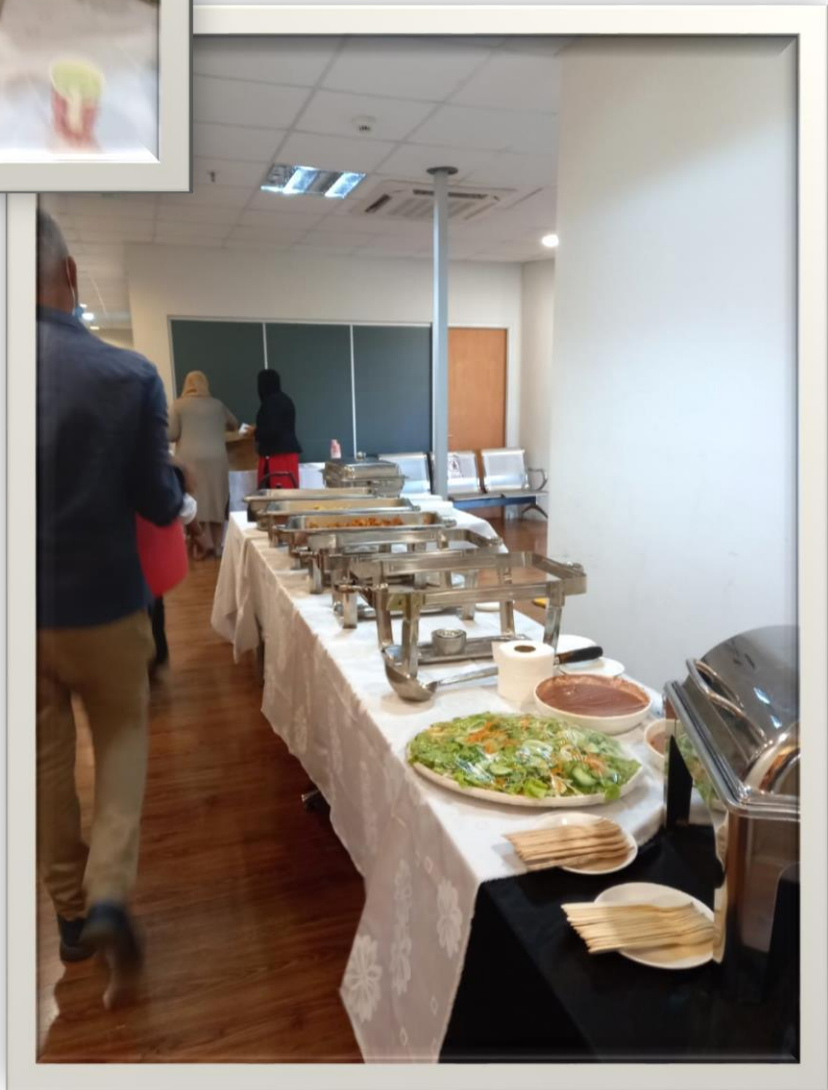
Figure 4 : Visit to Charitable Institution

Christmas Celebrations – December 2021



Figure 5 : Christmas Celebrations

Lunch – June 2022





PART II :
**Achievements and
Challenges**

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Being the apex of consumer protection, the Unit carries out check and inspections to ensure the enforcement of existing consumer legislations and provide overall consumer satisfaction and security. The main achievements of the Unit for the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are tabled below:

1	No. of control checks at trade premises	9,432
2	No. of checks at bakeries	150
3	No. of talks delivered (including on TV and radio)	19
4	Total No. of contraventions established (out of which 350 are fixed penalties)	1,009
5	No. of sampling procedures carried out:	
	i. Steel bars	193
	ii. Toys	37
	iii. Fireworks	3
	iv. Electric Cables	91
	v. Goods under Safety Requirements Regulations	38
	Total No. of Sampling	362
6	Total No. of complaints registered on Citizen Support Portal (CSP)	2,646

Table 6 : Main achievements of CAU

LEGAL METROLOGY

The Legal Metrology, responsible for, inter alia, the assizing and calibration of weighing and measure instruments, has performed the following services for the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, as tabled below:

Verification/Calibration of instruments		
SN	Details of activities	Total
1	Instruments verified for trade purposes	11,107
2	Instruments calibrated (for Industries & others)	867
3	Instruments verified during Mobile Verification	2,701
4	Petrol pumps verified	955
5	Weighbridges verified	50
6	Water meters calibrated	18
Inspection of Trade / Packing premises		
7	Traders (<i>General Retailers, Vegetable/fruit sellers, Jewellers</i>)	1,056
8	Packers/Retail Outlets (<i>Foodstuffs/ Non-foodstuffs</i>)	72
9	Petrol pumps	346
10	Complaints investigated	38
11	Contraventions established	56
Certificate of Suitability		
12	Certificates of suitability issued for importation of weighing instruments for trade use	50
Revenue		
13	Revenue collected	Rs 5,923,028.41
Clients		
14	Traders	4,933
15	Calibration services on request	224
16	Petrol stations	245

Table 7: Main Achievement of LMS

Laboratory Accreditation

The Legal Metrology Services is accredited by MAURITAS to meet the requirements of ISO 17025:2017 in the field of mass for the calibration of mass pieces of accuracy class up to F₂ and non-automatic weighing instruments of accuracy class II, III and IIII.

TRADE

The Division is known as the technical arm of the Ministry for matters related to trade practices and the implementation of trade policies. The main achievements of the Division for the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are tabled below:

Permits/Certificates		
SN	Details	Total
1	Import permit issued (6,242 permits issued for second-hand motor vehicles)	7,952
2	Export Permits issued	1,953
3	Certificate of Origin:	
	i. AGOA	1,065
	ii. COMESA	502
	iii. Generalised System of Preference (GSP)	292
	iv. VISA	21

Table 8 : Main achievements of the Trade Division

Authorised dealer in importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles

The Ministry regulates the sector of second-hand motor vehicles by granting import permit and delivery allowed as well as by issuing licences, renewable on a yearly basis subject to compliance with the Regulations in force.

Revenue collected as Fees for renewal of licences of authorised dealer in the importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles amounted to Rs 5,400,000 (90x60,000) for the financial year 2021-2022.

Scrap Metal

The scrap metal sector is governed by the Consumer Protection (Scrap Metal) Regulations 2019 and one of the roles of the Ministry is to issue two types of permits and two types of licences. The number of operators of scrap metals is shown in table below:

Type of Scrap Metal Licence/Permit	As at June 2022
Exporter Licence	20
Dealer Licence	23
Carrier Permit	81
Collector Permit	46

Table 9 : Number of scrap metals operators

For the Financial Year 2021-2022, a total revenue of Rs 2,026,750 has been collected.

Bunkering

Bunker fuel imports are controlled by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection through its trading arm, that is, the STC. Bunker fuel is a restricted goods under the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017.

The STC is the main authoritative figure to control the quality and specifications of products being imported. The other authorities that must be liaised with during an import of bunkers in Mauritius includes the Mauritius Ports Authority and the Mauritius revenue Authority (Customs Department).

Bunkering services are carried out all year round by licenced local operators. As at date, there are 14 holders of licence for Trade in Bunker Fuels. Overall, the market of bunkering in Mauritius has been on the rise especially more since 2014 when the market started to open up to independent imports.

As shown in the table below, a total volume of 608,496 Metric Tons (MT) was handled in the Financial Year 2020/2021 as compared to a total volume of 594,496 Metric Tons (MT) in 2021/2022, showing a decrease owing to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SN	Financial Year	No of Vessels	Total Bunker Fuel Supplied (MT)
1	2018/2019	2,321	593,228
2	2019/2020	2,359	692,501
3	2020/2021	1,947	608,496
4	2022/2022	1906	594,911

Table 10: Quantity of Bunker Fuel supplied to vessels

PRICE FIXING UNIT

The Price Fixing, whose main aim is to fix the prices of some essential commodities for the welfare of consumers for Mauritius and Rodrigues, make same more affordable to consumers and prevent profiteering. The main achievements of the Unit are as follows:

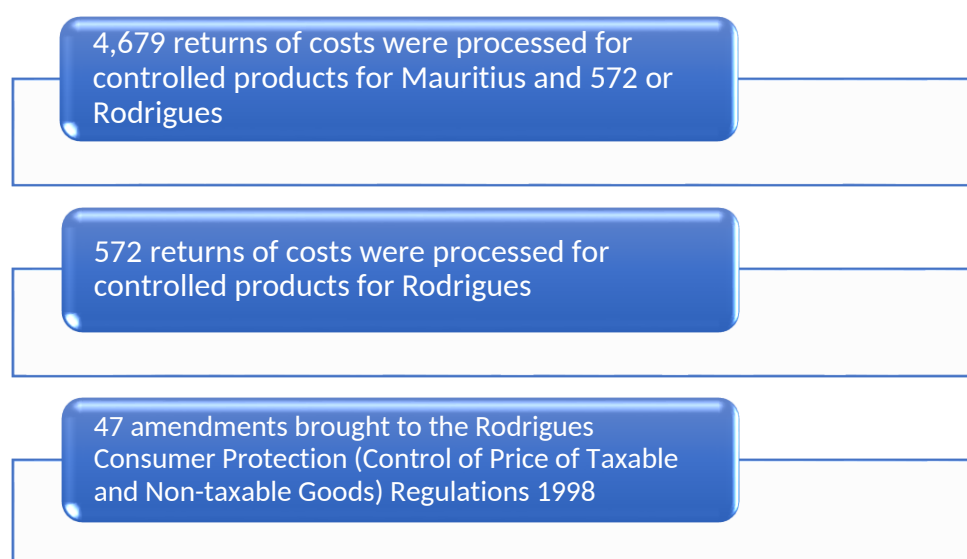


Figure 8 : Main achievements of the Price Fixing Unit

Subsidy Scheme

In July 2021, in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulted rise in costs of imports namely freight, insurance as well as the appreciation of foreign exchange currencies rise which have in turn caused an upsurge in the prices of essential commodities, the Government decided to introduce price control by fixing a maximum retail price for certain essential products of wide consumption namely edible oil, pulses, canned tomatoes, milk powder, margarine, cheese and canned fish (Sardines and pilchards), thus enabling consumers to access these products at the same prices as that in January 2021.

As such, the retail prices of 371 different brands of commodities were fixed under the Consumer Protection (Maximum Price of Essential Goods) Regulations 2021 – GN 162 of 2021 and the Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Maximum Price of Essential Goods) Regulations 2021 - GN 164 of 2021.

A subsidy of Rs 500 M was initially granted on these products for a period of 6 months to compensate the loss in revenue to importers, manufacturers and distributors who sell these goods to a retailer. However, since exogenous factors continued to influence global prices worldwide, the Government decided to extend the subsidy up to 30 June 2022. The total Subsidy Scheme amounted to some Rs 1.35 billion.

PRICE OBSERVATORY

The Price Observatory Committee was set up on 26 November 2021 with the following composition:

Composition of the Price Observatory Committee

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	
1. Dr. (Mrs.) Rooba Yanembal Moorghen	Chairperson
<u>Members</u>	
2. Ms. Bibi Reshma Mohuddy	Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection
3. Mrs. Shardhanjali Bedacee	Analyst/Senior Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
4. Mr. Sanjev Bhonoo	Statistician, Statistics Mauritius
5. Mrs. Rooma Narrainen	Head of Advocacy, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
6. Mr. Suttihudeo Tengur	President, Association for the Protection of the Environment and Consumers
7. Mr. Emam Mosadeq Sahebodin	President, Consumer Advocacy Platform
8. Mr. Shailendra Kumar Dusowoth	Manager, International College Chairperson, PPC
9. Mr. Rajeev Pydayya	Analyst (Trade), Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection

Table 11 : Composition of the Price Observatory Committee

The Price Observatory has the main objective of monitoring the evolution of retail prices of commodities consisting of both food and non-food products and providing an interactive communication platform for the information, protection and education of consumers.

Since December 2021 to 30 June 2022, the Price Observatory Committee held seven meetings.

Ten internal analytical reports have also been prepared and approved by the Committee. These reports provide insights on the evolution of retail prices of more than 450 brands for the 100 products across the 51 outlets following price collection exercise by the officers of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

The monthly analytical report helps in the identification of the prices for the products that are mostly subject to upward volatilities and aids for policy making such as introduction of maximum price control or other form of price control. The report provides monitoring information on the prices being practiced and provide a basis for evidence and argumentative dialogues between stakeholders.

A new methodology is adopted to monitor the evolution of retail prices of commodities consisting of both food and non-food products. The processes involved in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of the monitoring report are interconnected.

BUDGET MEASURES

The Budget Measures for the Financial Year 2021-2022 for the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection is as follows:

BUDGET MEASURES	REMARKS
Introduction of a levy of Rs 2 per litre on mogas and diesel for the purchase of vaccines	Operational
Extend the subsidy on the price of white flour for 25 kg bags to Rs 155.50 for one additional year	Operational
Provision for an additional subsidy of Rs 19.50 per 25 kg bag to align the price of wheat flour to that of white flour	Operational
Increase of the minimum shelf space for locally manufactured products from 10% to 40% within a period of one year	Not operational, in view of its complexity and implications involved.

Table 12 : Budget Measures

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

The Government Programme 2020-2024, centred on achieving an Inclusive, High Income and Green Mauritius, has a deep and wide-reaching actions across various sectors of the economy and society. The measures falling under the purview of this Ministry are closely being monitored by an in-house Monitoring Committee chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary. The two measures are detailed below:

- a) *Government will build further on the impressive performance of the past few years, which was enabled to be positioned 13th globally in the Ease of Doing Business of the World Bank in 2019. It will continue to streamline licences and business processes aiming at putting Mauritius among the ten best countries for doing business.*
- b) *Government will encourage the use of Liquefied Natural Gas for the production of electricity, for internal transport, for domestic use as well as for eventual bunkering purposes.*

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

The Anti-Corruption Committee has carried out two Corruption Review Assessments (CRA) on:

- a) the importation of gold which is a restricted goods requiring an import permit prior to its shipment. Several weakness and corruption risks have been identified along with the measures to mitigate the risks have been proposed.
- b) the verification of pre-packed commodities carried out by officers of the Legal Metrology Services. Several weakness and corruption risks have been identified along with the measures to mitigate the risks have been proposed.

More than 75% of the recommendations contained in the two CRA have

been implemented.

Report of the Director of Audit

As required under the Finance and Audit Act, the Director of Audit submits an annual report of all accounts of the Government and of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. In its Reference Sheet - Annual Audit Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2021, the Director of Audit has drawn attention on the following issues:

a) Governance Issues – Non-compliance with legislation:

- i. Non-submission of report on performance for the Financial Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 not submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development by 31 October every year.

b) Annual Reports not laid before the National Assembly:

- i. As of 20 December 2021, the State Trading Corporation had not yet laid its audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2019-2020 before the National Assembly.

Appropriate actions have been taken to ensure that deadlines are met and annual reports are laid before the National Assembly within the required time.

In its Reference Sheet - Annual Audit Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2020, the Director of Audit has, inter alia, drawn attention on the following issues:

a) Procurement of Electric Forklift and Security Services – lapses in Procurement Management:

- i. A review of two procurements, namely, electric forklift and security services for the Legal Metrology Services revealed that no proper planning prior to procurement of the electric forklift and

bid evaluation not properly carried out for the provision of security services:

Appropriate actions have been taken to ensure a proper planning in the procurement of assets and to comply with the directives of public procurement.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Outcome							
Effective protection of consumer interests and improved consumer satisfaction							
Outcome Indicator			Actual 2020/21 (Prov)	Target 2021/22		Target 2022/23	Target 2023/24
Percentage of complaints resolved within two months			80%	85%		88%	90%
Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Actual 2020/21 (Prov)	Target 2021/22	Achieved 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Target 2023/24
MCCP/CAU	Ensure effective consumer protection	Number of trade premises inspected	17,000	12,000	9432	12,500	13,000
Competition Commission	Promote and protect competition in markets	Number of competition cases assessed and completed	55	59	68	63	67

Table 13 : Key Performance Indicators

Major legislations made by MCCP from July 2021 to June 2022

- **Consumer Protection (Maximum Price of Essential Goods) Regulations 2021.**

This regulation was promulgated in July 2021 to put a maximum price on 7 categories of product comprising more than 350 most consumed brand.

- **Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Maximum Price of Essential Goods) Regulations 2021.**

This regulation was promulgated in July 2021 to put a maximum price on 7 categories of product comprising more than 350 most consumed brand in the island of Rodrigues.

- **The Consumer Protection (Price Observatory Committee) Regulations 2021.**

The Consumer Protection (Price Observatory Committee) Regulations 2021 was promulgated to establish the Price Observatory Committee in September 2021.

- **The Toys (Safety) Regulations 2021.**

This regulation was introduced in October 2021, in order to strengthen the law with regards to ‘safety of toys’ imported for our domestic market.

- **The Consumer Protection (Control of Retail Selling Price of Imported Live Goat and Sheep) Regulations 2021.**

To fix the retail selling price, per kilogramme, of imported live goat and sheep for a given period.

- **The Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.**

To cater for the revocation of the Consumer Protection (Maximum Price of Essential Goods) Regulations 2021 in order to limit any excessive rise in prices. Thus, certain essential products were placed under the price

control under the mark-up regime.



PART III:
**FINANCIAL
PERFORMANCE**

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In Budget 2021-2022, funds amounting to **Rs 177 million** were earmarked for the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection under Vote 17-2.

The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection has three Sub-Heads under its main vote as follows:

SN	Sub-Head	Description	Amount Budgeted (Rs)
1.	17-201	General	12,500,000
2.	17-202	Commerce and Trade Development	132,400,000
3.	17-203	Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance	32,100,000
TOTAL			177,000,000

Table 14 : Budget 21/22

This section provides an overview of the revenue and expenditure of the Ministry during the financial year.

Statement of Expenditure

As at 30 June 2022, the actual expenditure was Rs 170,769,663 as detailed below:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT BUDGETED (Rs)	AMOUNT SPENT (Rs)	PERCENTAGE DISBURSED (Rs)
Recurrent Expenditure	172,490,000	168,931,744	97.9%
Capital Expenditure	4,510,000	1,837,919	40.75%
TOTAL	177,000,000	170,769,663	96.48%

Table 15 : Actual Expenditure

The table below shows a comparison between Voted Estimates and actual expenditure for financial year 2021/2022

Vote/Sub-Head of Expenditure	Amount Budgeted (Rs)	Amount Spent (Rs)
Sub-Head 17-201		
Compensation of Employees	11,655,000	11,769,199
Goods and Services	845,000	975,097
TOTAL	12,500,000	12,744,296
Sub-Head 17-202		
Compensation of Employees	46,730,000	44,388,025
Goods and Services	18,490,000	19,445,565
Grants	64,870,000	63,363,974
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	2,310,000	1,441,609
TOTAL	132,400,000	128,639,173
Sub-Head 17-203		
Compensation of Employees	28,540,000	27,635,797
Goods and Services	1,660,000	1,654,086
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	1,900,000	96,310
TOTAL	32,100,000	29,386,193

Table 16 : Comparison between Voted Estimates and actual expenditure

It can be observed from the table above that the total amount spent for Sub-Head 17-201 exceeds the amount budgeted. This variance was the result of a virement from Sub-Head 17-202, Item “Salary Compensation” to meet additional expenses under Sub-Head 17-201.

Expenditure Classification

- **Compensation of Employees** is made up of
 - i. Personal Emoluments (*Basic Salary, Compensation, Allowances, End of year Bonus, Extra Assistance & Cash in lieu of Leave*);
 - ii. Other Staff Costs (*Travelling & Transport, Overtime, Staff Welfare*); and
 - iii. Social Contribution (*Contribution to NSF*).
- **Goods and Services** consist of recurrent expenses and include the following:
 - i. Cost of Utilities (*Electricity, Telephone & Water Charges*)
 - ii. Fuel and Oil (*Vehicles*)
 - iii. Rent (*Rental of Building, Parking Slots and Vehicles*)
 - iv. Office Equipment & Furniture
 - v. Office Expenses (*Postage, Cleaning Materials & Office Sundries*)
 - vi. Maintenance (*Buildings, Plant & Equipment, Vehicles, IT Equipment & Grounds*)
 - vii. Cleaning Services
 - viii. Security Services
 - ix. Publications and Stationery (*Paper and Materials, Printing and Stationery, Books and Periodicals, Public Notices & Publications*)
 - x. Fees (*Fees to Chairperson & Members of Boards, Fees for Training, Refund of Subscription Fees to Professional Bodies, Inspection and Audit Fees and Fees icw Parking Coupons*)
 - xi. Travelling within the Republic (*Passage Costs & Accommodation Costs*)
 - xii. Other Goods and Services (*Uniforms, Provision and Stores, Hospitality and Ceremonies & Miscellaneous Expenses*)

- **Grants** refer to funds provided to the Competition Commission
- **Acquisition of Non - Financial Assets** represents expenditure incurred on the acquisition of IT Equipment, Laboratory Equipment & Software.

The above is being analysed by the following charts: -

Sub Head 17-201 – General

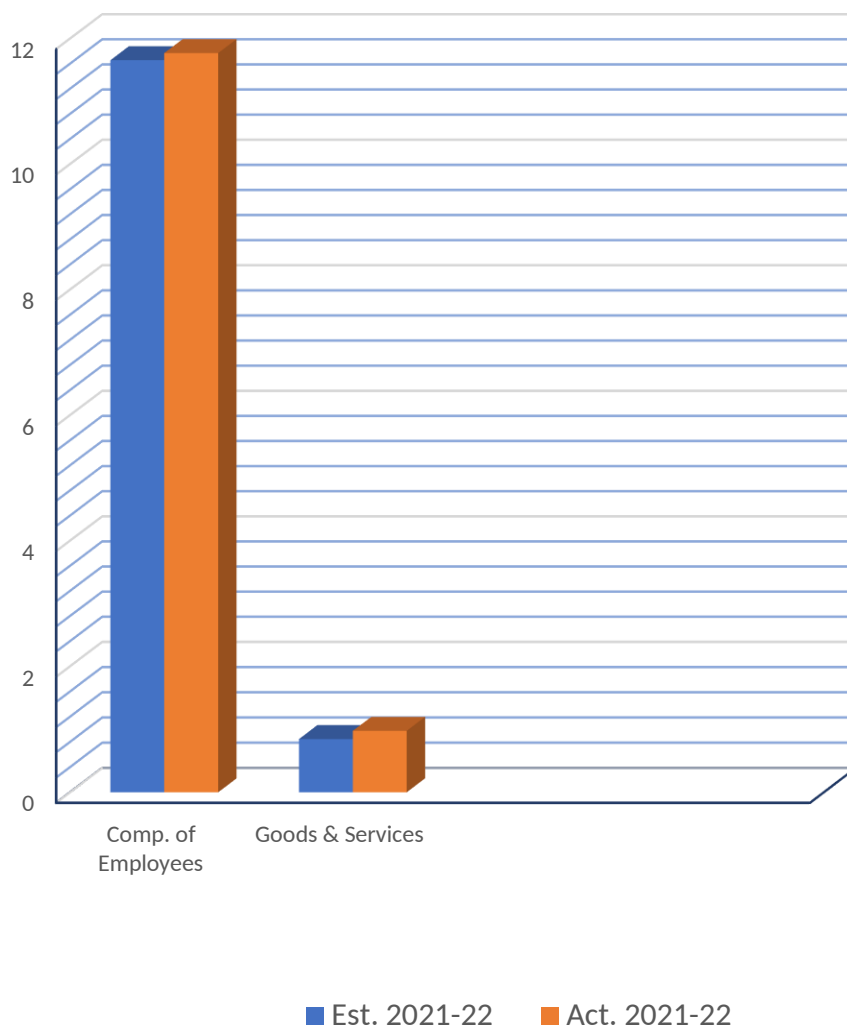


Figure 9 : Sub-Head 17-201

The total expenditure incurred in FY 2021-2022 under Sub-Head 17-201 – General is Rs 12.744 M out of the Budgeted amount of 12.5M. The funds were earmarked solely for Recurrent Expenditure.

Breakdown is as follows:

- 92.3% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Compensation of Employees; and
- 7.7% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Goods and Services.

The Cumulative Expenditure for FY 2021-2022 was overbudgeted due to implementation of PRB Report 2021.

Sub Head 17-202 – Commerce and Trade Development

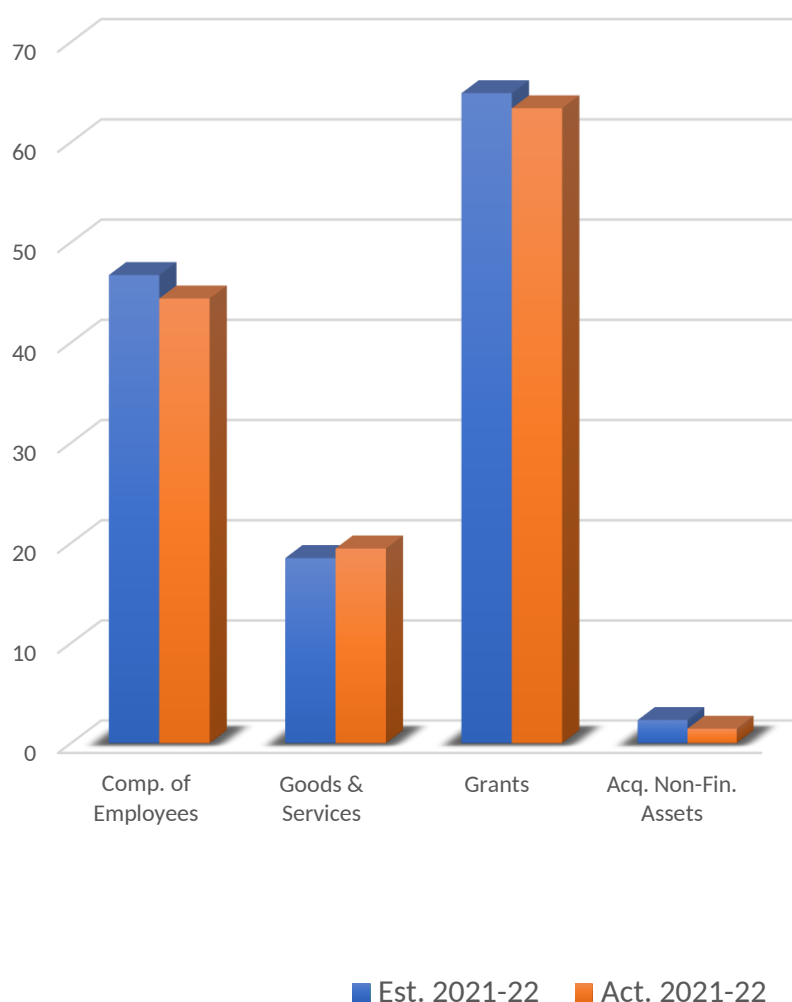


Figure 10 : Sub-Head 17-202

The total expenditure under Sub-Head 17-202 – Commerce and Trade Development was Rs 128.639 M out of the Budgeted Amount of Rs 132.4 M.

The recurrent expenditure and Capital Expenditure incurred was Rs 126.897 M and Rs 1.742 M respectively.

Breakdown is as follows:

- *34.5 % of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Compensation of Employees*
- *15.1% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Goods and Services*
- *49.2% of Actual Expenditure was spent on Item Grants to Competition Commission*
- *1.1% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Acquisition of Non- Financial Assets*

Total expenditure was underspent for FY 2021-2022 due to non-procurement of Mass Comparator for the Legal Metrology Services; merger fees for Competition Commission were below budgeted value; non-payment of allowances to Honourable Minister and non-payment of previous compensations due to implementation of PRB Report 2021.

Sub Head 17-203 – Consumer Protection and Market surveillance

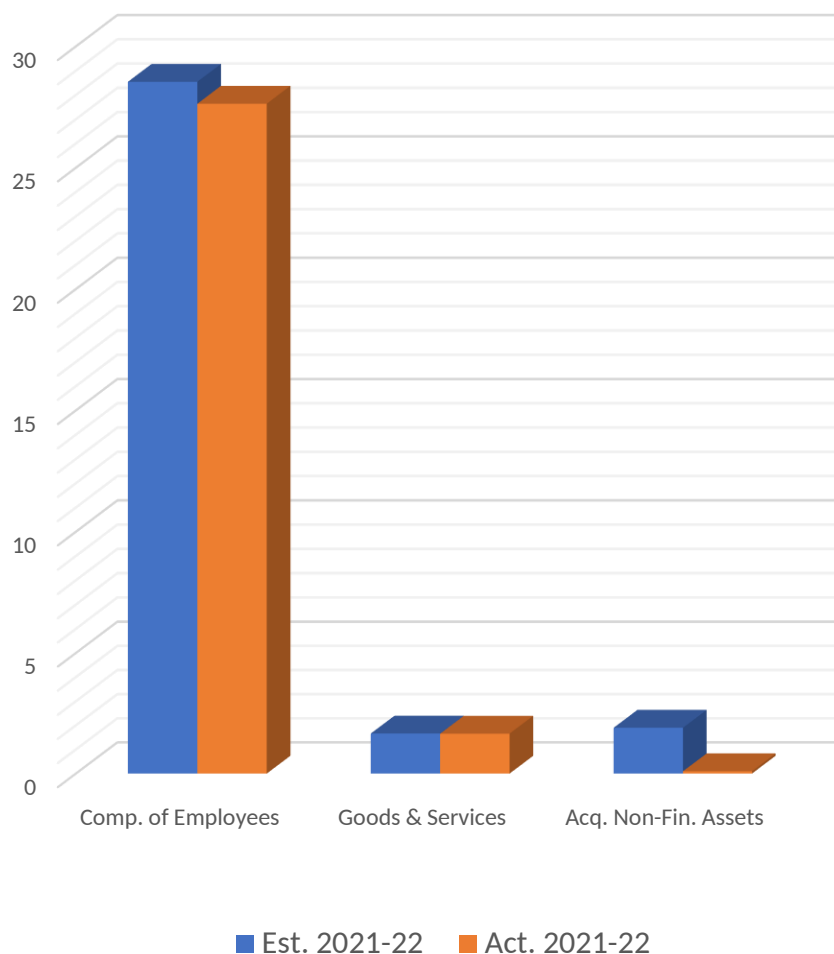


Figure 11 : Sub-Head 17-203

The total expenditure incurred for FY 2021-2022 under Sub-Head 17-203 – Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance is Rs 29.386 M out of the Budgeted Amount of Rs 32.1M.

The recurrent expenditure and Capital Expenditure incurred was Rs 29.290 M and Rs 0.096M respectively.

- 94.1% of Actual Expenditure were spent on item Compensation of Employees;
- 5.6% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Goods and Services;

➤ 0.3% of Actual Expenditure was spent on item Acquisition of Non- Financial Assets

Expenditure for FY 2021-2022 was underspent due to non-procurement of tablets for officers of Consumers Affairs Unit.

Analysis of Major Changes

The table below shows the breakdown of expenditure for FY 2021-2022 compared to FY 2020-2021:

Vote/Sub-Head of Expenditure	2020-2021 Actual (Rs)	2021-2022 Actual (Rs)
17-201	10,638,042	12,744,296
17-202	87,043,154	128,639,173
17-203	31,911,694	29,386,193
TOTAL	129,592,890	170,769,662

Table 17 : Breakdown of expenditure

Increase in Cumulative Expenditure for Vote Sub Head 17-201 & 17-202 was due to implementation of PRB report 2021.

As regards Sub-Head 17-203, there has been a decrease due to non-procurement of IT Equipment.

The above is being analysed by the following chart: -

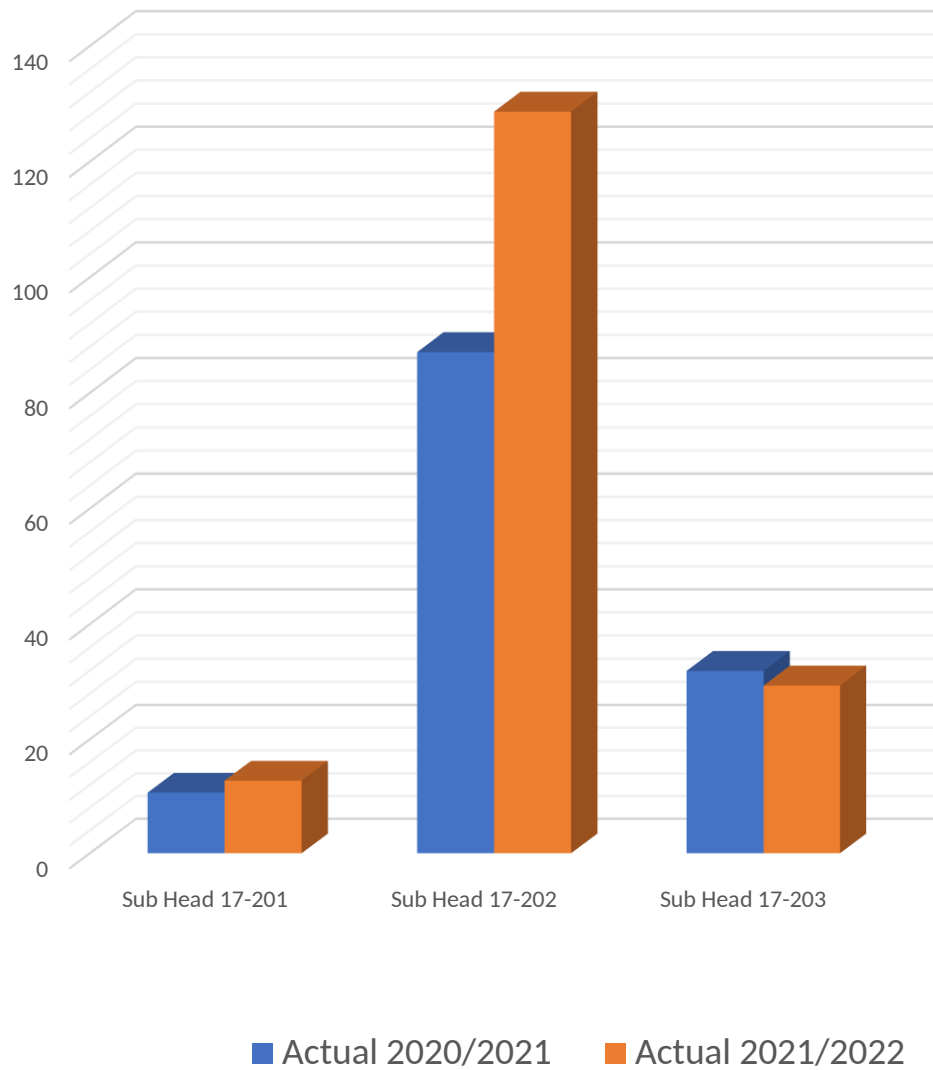


Figure 12 : Analysis of Major Changes

STATEMENT OF REVENUE

In Financial Year 2021/2022, the Ministry derived Revenue from the following sources:

- *Bunkering Licences*
- *Scrap Metal Dealer/Exporter Licences*
- *Dealer in importation and Sale of Second-Hand Vehicles*
- *Revenue (Miscellaneous) - Trade Fairs*
- *Fines, Penalties & Forfeits*
- *Duty on Scales – Legal Metrology*

A summary of total revenue collected by the Ministry for FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 is given in table below:

Items of Revenue	2020/2021	2021/2022
	Actual (Rs)	Actual (Rs)
Bunkering Licences	1,200,000	1,400,000
Scrap Metal Dealer/Exporter Licences	1,272,500	2,026,750
Dealer in importation and Sale of Second-Hand Vehicles	5,160,000	5,400,000
Revenue (Miscellaneous) - Trade Fairs	1,800,000	13,058,448
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits (Surcharge)	160,250	237,500
Duty on Scales – Legal Metrology	5,486,241	5,923,028.41
TOTAL	15,078,991	28,045,726

Table 18 : Revenue Collected

Analysis of Major Changes

A total revenue of Rs 28 M was collected for FY 2021/2022 out of which 4.99% was from Bunkering Licences; 7.23% from Scrap Metal Dealer/Export Licences; 19.25% from Dealers in Importation and Sale of Second -Hand Vehicles; 46.56% from Trade Fairs; 0.85% from fines, Penalties and forfeits and 21.12% from Duty on Scales.

As such, there has been an increase in all the items of revenue for FY 2021/2022 compared to FY 2020/2021.

The above is being analysed by the following chart: -

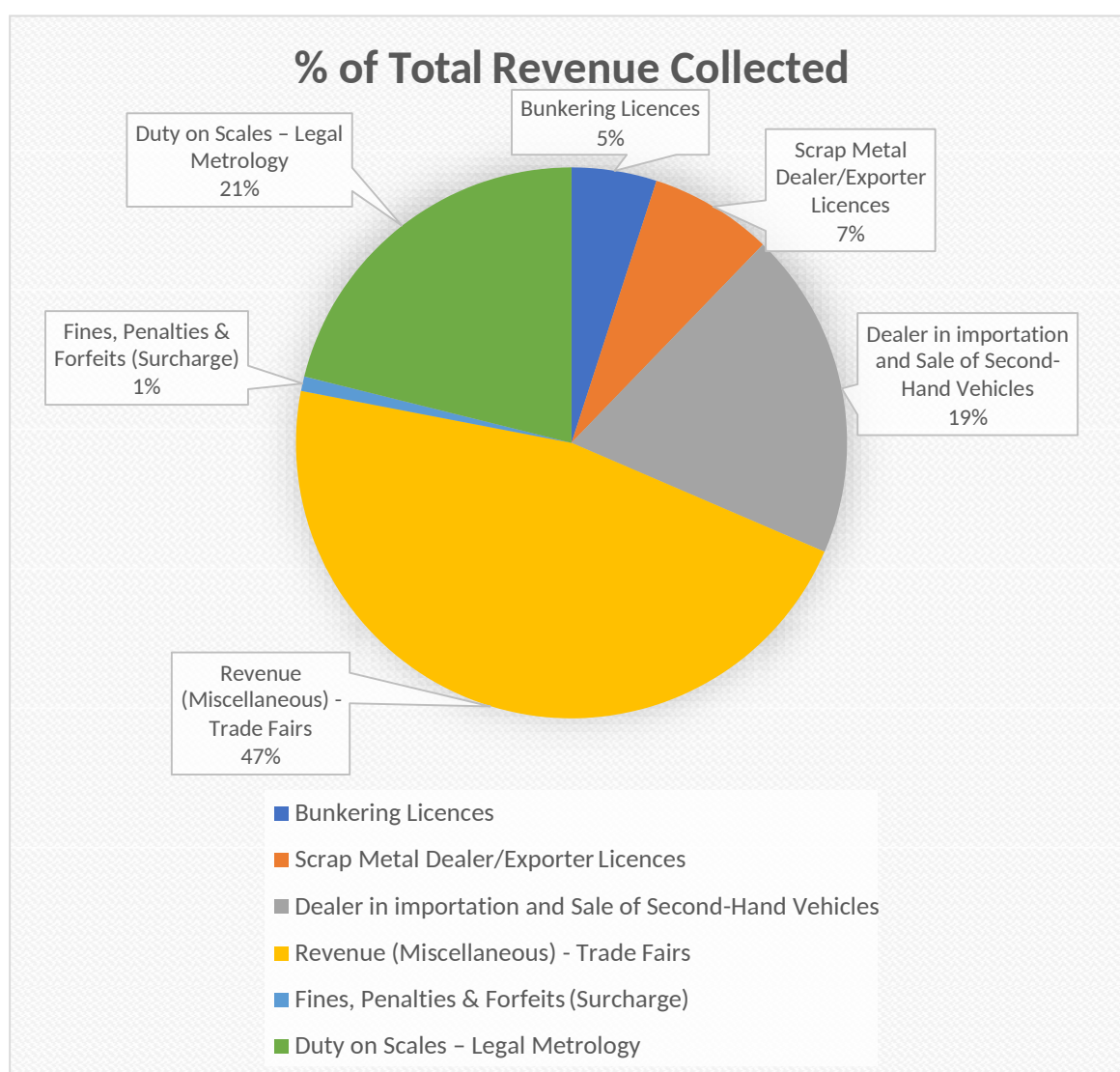


Figure 13 : Breakdown of Revenue



**PART IV:
WAY
FORWARD**

The figure below identifies the internal factors and resources that constitute the strengths and weaknesses of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection as well as the external attributes on which the Ministry may capitalise upon (Opportunities) or may constitute a threat to its operation and mission.

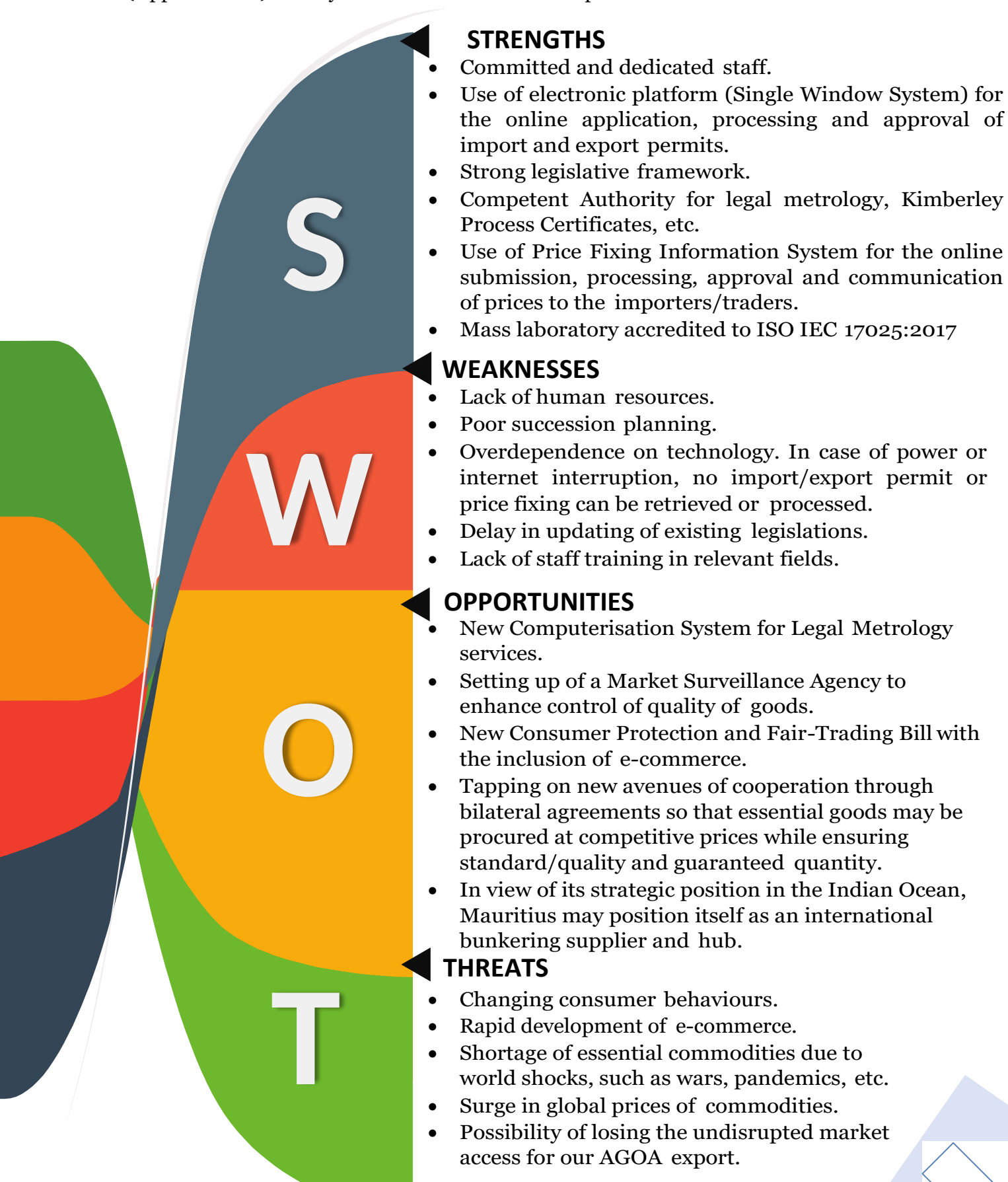


Figure 14 : SWOT Analysis

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In order to fulfil its objectives, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection has defined its strategic direction for the next three years as follows:

❖ Ensuring more effective consumer protection

- ✓ A new Consumer Protection and Fair-Trading Bill will be introduced to enhance consumer protection and address e-commerce issues.
- ✓ A Market Surveillance Agency will be set up to enhance control of quality of goods.
- ✓ Restructuring of the Consumer Affairs Unit.
- ✓ Development of a Price Monitoring and Control Application to inform consumers of prices of selected goods in different retail outlets.
- ✓ Development of a Strategic Plan for the Price Observatory.

❖ Promoting and protecting competition in markets

- ✓ Enhanced control and monitoring over Restrictive business practices.
- ✓ The existing Competition Act to be amended to enhance detection and enforcement against anticompetitive practices.

❖ Ensuring security of supply of essential commodities

- ✓ Construction of additional storage facilities to increase storage capacity of LPG and Jet A-1.

❖ Increasing trade in bunker fuel

- ✓ Private investment in bunker storage to be furthered.