Use of Information and Communication Technologies for the implementation of the convention in order to facilitate public sector transparency and combat corruption.

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption, by nature, thrives in an enabling environment which comprises key components including human to human interaction which is yet one of the primary causes of corruption. Needless to mention that in the event such services are not properly computerised, the direct contact between the public official and the service seeker might prompt for opportunities for corruption.

In line with Chapter I Article 7 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), where Article 7. Each State Party shall, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, endeavour to adopt, maintain and strengthen systems for the recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion and retirement of civil servants and, where appropriate, other non-elected public officials...,

In view of enhancing public sector integrity, the Government has undertaken a number of pertinent ICT-based measures spanning from the public sector to other key spheres of the economy to address the inherent risks emanating from such situations.

Promulgated in 2002, the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) 2002 establishes the ICAC and criminalises an act of corruption. Pursuant to its prevention mandate, the ICAC Mauritius advocates for and conducts a number of corruption prevention initiatives and provides appropriate recommendations to public bodies in view of eliminating corruption opportunities or loopholes. Many of the recommendations are IT-based to reduce human interaction and to eliminate opportunities for corruption.

II. IT-BASED PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATIVES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

A number of e-initiatives have been undertaken in the public sector including the launching of an e-Government programme in 2001. Amongst others, the e-Government programme aimed at enabling Ministries and Departments to integrate ICT within their operations and services to enhance effectiveness and efficiency. By encouraging ICT integration into its operations, the Government is limiting the human to human interaction especially in respect of service delivery and is increasing access to information. Thus, such initiatives are contributing towards reducing corruption opportunities.

* ENHANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Along with the e-Government programme, a number of legislations have been enforced towards protecting data, preserving data integrity, increasing accessibility to information and regulating cyber security issues as follows:
ICT Act 2001
Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act 2003
Electronic Transaction Act 2000
Data Protection Act 2004

These legislations definitely address key issues of cybercrime and cyber security and a number of offences which are liable to prosecution. These legislations set the ground for an increased use of ICT in reducing corruption risks and malpractices through inappropriate human interaction in the public sector and through increased access to information for more transparency.

= MAURITIUS E-REGISTRY PROJECT

The Mauritius Registrar-General Department (RGD) has reached the second phase of the Mauritius eRegistry Project (MeRP). The first phase was completed in May 2014. The second phase of the MeRP will focus on transforming the services to electronic mode.

The key objective is to provide the RGD and stakeholders an electronic dashboard through which they can submit documents, pay fees, carry out registrations, searches and delivery of registered documents. The project is being implemented in two phases over a period of two years. The first phase was for the modernisation of the RGD by implementing the eRegistry software system.

= OTHER E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The different e-government initiatives undertaken attempt, amongst others, to enhance access to public information through the following:

Websites
Every Ministry/Department now have their own websites where relevant information are readily available pertaining to the different services provided. Public can access such websites for information with respect to applications for permits, licences, amongst others and electronic versions of the documents along with appropriate guidance.

Cabinet/ Government Decisions
All cabinet decisions are rendered public on the same day on national television, radio and on the website of the Prime Minister’s Office.

All legislative reports and discussions
All legislative reports and discussions, parliamentary questions, draft bills and legislations tabled at the Assembly are available in its library and its website.

HANSARD
All discussions in the National Assembly are recorded within 24 hours in verbatim and are available on its website.
All legislations and case judgments
All legislations and case judgments are listed on the website of the Supreme Court and accessible to the public.

Anti-Corruption tools and materials
Anti-corruption materials and tools developed by the ICAC are posted on its website and are accessible to the public and public bodies.

Go AML
The UN goAML project is an integrated web-application, developed by the UNODC. The goAML website enables online reporting of suspicious transactions lodged with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) via the goAML Website.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE ICAC MAURITIUS THAT ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN VIEW OF BOOSTING PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY

Pursuant to its prevention mandate, the ICAC has strategized, recommended and followed-up implementation of an array of ICT based measures in the public sector. Mostly focusing on the operations side, recommendations range from broader spectrum spanning from legislations amendments to simple immediate and costless changes in the day-to-day operations. Some of the actions are as follows:

• ICT-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION REVIEWS
As per its corruption prevention mandate, the ICAC conducts corruption prevention reviews on existing systems and procedures. A Corruption Prevention Review (CPR) examines the systems, procedures and practices for public service delivery, identifies loopholes/weaknesses and recommends measures to address these weaknesses. The aim is to improve transparency and accountability while reinforcing integrity.

Use of ICT in public bodies aim at prompting for an efficient and transparent delivery of public services thereby eliminating corruption/malpractices by substituting as far as possible manual processes which are vulnerable to corruption and reducing inappropriate human interaction between the public officials and the public. In the perspective to fight corruption, the ICAC, through its corruption prevention reviews of systems, procedures and practices, has recommended the use of ICT to public bodies, where appropriate, to carry out their functions to allow for more:

A. transparency and accountability
B. administrative procedural simplicity leading to speed up service delivery
C. effective controls and monitoring

The impact associated with implementation of these measures include enhanced transparency and accountability, better audit trail, lower risk of manipulation/tampering and provides for less human intervention/interaction.
A. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency and accountability are key principles which are fundamental to corruption prevention. Implementation of ICT-based measures have been critical in driving these principles as follows:

- **Using ICT to enhance access to information**
  ICT is an effective and efficient medium to provide relevant information to the public in a transparent and accountable manner. The use of ICT also brings more fairness and symmetry distribution of relevant information to the public. For instance, information with respect to applications for licences, permits/clearances are disseminated through relevant websites thereby reducing processing time as well as enquiries on applications. In addition, electronically available customer charters provide maximum information to customers on requirements and steps involved in the application and processing of such licences or permits.

Some examples of ICT-based recommendations made by ICAC that are being or have been implemented by public bodies:

- Local Authorities are making use of their respective website to disseminate relevant information with respect to application procedures for building and land use permits along with guidelines where appropriate.
- The National Transport Authority is using its website to post updated information on the last registration mark of vehicles reached in the running series to render the allocation of reserved registration marks more transparent whilst ensuring fairness.
- The University of Mauritius is advertising information on scholarships on its website thereby reducing the perception of favouritism and increasing competition in the pool of candidates applying for the course.
- Training and development opportunities are communicated to all staff through the website of Central Information Systems Division (CISD). Nomination results are publicised in both CISD’s website and notice boards to ensure employee’s trust in the nomination process.
- All vacancies in the public service are posted on the website of the Public Service Commission along with online application facilities.
- The Irrigation Authority is informing the public, through notices, of the availability of vacant plots through its website so that all interested citizens are given sufficient time to submit their applications for allocation of state land on lease. The notice includes the approved eligibility criteria thereby promoting principles of transparency and fairness.
- The Civil Status Division (CSD) has published its Customer Charter along with information pertaining to application for birth/marriage certificates on its website for communication to the general public.
- Most of the Ministries and public bodies have developed Customer Charters which have been posted on their respective websites.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURAL SIMPLICITY

ICT is being widely used in the conduct of public affairs to simplify administrative procedures and to reduce red-tapism leading to hassle-free public service delivery and most importantly greater customer
satisfaction. To achieve administrative procedural simplicity, ICAC has made a number of recommendations including:

- **Computerised Systems in Public Bodies**
Prior to conduct of CPRs, it was noted that the operations/activities of a number of public bodies were still based on manual operations. As a corruption prevention strategy, the ICAC has recommended the prompt computerisation of these operations/activities to improve organisational efficiency and simplify the procedures in place. Computerisation of systems and processes also limit opportunities for forgery, malpractices and corruption. Some examples of the types of recommendations and their impact made with respect to computerisation in public bodies are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public body where ICAC recommended for computerisation</th>
<th>Impact noted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius Rights Management Society</td>
<td>More transparency and integrity in the management of copyrights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Transport Authority (NTA)</td>
<td>An integrated system for licensing, registration, cash and Motor Vehicle Licence (MVL) together with payment for MVL on a day-to-day instead of monthly basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Authority (TA)</td>
<td>Minimised the risk of fabrication of fake licence and malpractices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment</td>
<td>Streamlined e-work permit system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Technology, Mauritius</td>
<td>Computerised accounting system for minimising human intervention, increasing transparency and accountability, reducing risks of corruption and for effective monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Online Services**
Following the conduct of CPRs and in view of minimising human to human interactions while procuring for a service, recommendations were made for public bodies to adopt online services for licences, permits or clearances. Some examples of such online services are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public body where ICAC recommended the adoption of online service</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT platform at the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority</td>
<td>- Electronic submission of the required documents to minimise direct contacts between the declarants and Customs Officers. - The IT system of the Customs Department electronically allocates a Customs Officer for the review of customs goods declaration at random</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full computerisation of the procedures and processes at the Civil Status Division (CSD)</td>
<td>- Computerisation has led to prompt delivery of birth certificates and marriage certificates thereby reducing the risk of errors or fraud. - Online application for celebration of marriages between non-citizens has reduced corruption opportunities. The present system along with the new ID cards have allowed for the introduction of bar code readers to minimise mistakes / malpractices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With respect to the CPRs conducted on the recruitment and selection exercises, public organisations were called upon to make optimum use of ICT namely:

» Advertising all job vacancies on the websites of respective organisations.
» Availability of the e-application forms on the websites for wider dissemination, accessibility and transparency.
» E-acknowledgment of receipt of applications and communicating outcome for a post using emails and websites for increased transparency.

It is worth noting that presently, sixty-nine (69) e-services are available on the e-government platform and to meet the growing needs of the citizens, fifty new e-services will be supplemented on this platform during the year 2018/2017 following a cabinet decision of 7th April 2016.

- **E-Procurement**

In line with article 9 of the UNCAC, e-procurement using integrated security features is being implemented to establish more transparency, competition and objective decision-making. Public Procurement involves substantial amount of public funds (nearly 5% of GDP) and the nature of public procurement and the various stages that constitute the procurement cycle make public procurement a corruption prone area. As a corruption prevention measure, e-procurement is being emphasised upon in order to reduce direct contact between public official and potential suppliers; interactions being one of the main sources of corruption behaviour in public procurement.

E-procurement includes:

» the electronic publication of tender opportunities;
» online availability of bidding documents; and
» the electronic submission of bids.

E-procurement also allows for easy data generation and data management in order the detect overpricing or bid rigging. Moreover, to dissipate any perception of collusion in the procurement process, the installation of camera surveillance system has been recommended including recordings at the location of the tender box or devices used to receive the bids and for the bid opening exercises.

In addition, Public Bodies have been called upon to publish notice of details regarding every procurement award comprising the name of successful bidder on their websites for greater transparency.

C. **EFFECTIVE CONTROLS AND MONITORING**

ICT is being widely used to improve control and to effectively monitor the operations of public organisations. The CPRs recommended a number of measures using ICT to reinforce the control and monitoring mechanisms and to prevent corrupt practices/ malpractices. These include the following:

a) **CCTV System**

The Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system is a powerful tool that can significantly contribute to enhance the surveillance action in a transparent and accountable manner. The implementation of such system has enabled public organisations to:
(i). exercise greater control over public premises;
(ii). focus on productivity improvement, vehicle monitoring, staff movement and safeguards of
       public resources; and
(iii). deter staff from engaging in malpractices/corrupt behaviours.

The cost of implementation of the CCTV system has decreased over the years and the installation and use
of CCTV system has resulted in improved controls/safeguards in several public bodies including the
Mauritius Police Force (MPF). As a regulatory and enforcement body, police officers are endowed with high
discretion in the execution of their duties and such situations provide opportunities for corruption/malpractices. A number of measures using advanced technology are being implemented by the
MPF to enhance controls and to prevent corrupt practices/malpractices as follows:

➤ Detection of Traffic Offences Using Fixed Cameras
   In the past, detection of offences were made visually or through use of specific handheld detection
devices such as radars. These methods were subject to human intervention and it conferred police
officers with high discretionary powers and provided the opportunity to have face-to-face contact
with the public thereby creating grounds for corrupt practices/malpractices. One of the IT-based
measures implemented is the installation of fixed cameras at different strategic points to better
enforce the traffic regulations and reduce the face-to-face contact.

➤ Monitoring of Practical Tests for Driving Licence at Mauritius Police Force
   Demand for driving licences has increased considerably and a mounting pressure is exerted on the
licensing systems. As a consequence, there is a high propensity for corrupt practices to occur in the
MPF. As a measure to address such risks, in the issuance driving licence system, the use of video
recordings system integrated within the cars is being implemented to monitor the conduct of
practical road tests.

b) Electronic Attendance / Global Positioning System (GPS)
   The use of ICT system is being used to capture attendance of staff over the manual attendance system. The
   manual attendance registers are subject to tampering and renders control over employees working on-site,
   outside the office quite difficult, at times. The use of electronic attendance has resulted in better control over
   attendance and overtime performed in public bodies for judicious use of public funds.

   As far as overtime is concerned, the use of latest ICT for controlling overtime of staff working on-site outside
   the office were recommended. Where applicable, GPS for vehicle tracking together with Fingerprint
   Attendance Readers are integrated in the public vehicles used for the conveyance of on-site employees. This
   assists, in the capture of accurate information about attendance and acts as a deterrent to malpractices
   and abuse of office.

c) An Integrated Information System for a coordinated and structured approach
   An integrated information system with real data helps to provide effective results and detect malpractices
   and errors. Government provides various social aid to the needy persons and other services to the public.
   CPRs have revealed that various IT systems were not integrated and were operating in isolation with risks
to integrity of operations. The main measures being implemented to enhance controls in the public bodies to
avoid overpayment, malpractices and to obtain updated information are as follows:

7
Integration of the computer systems of the National Savings Fund (NSF) and National Pensions Fund (NPF) ensures that all employees applying for pension be immediately informed about their right to claim for NSF lump sum, if ever they are eligible for same. This measure allows the NSF to be up-to-date thereby avoiding unfair situations.

Harmonisation of the social aid and benefit modules of the Local Office System of the Ministry of Social Security National Solidarity and Reform Institutions (MSS). This integrated information system with inbuilt controls is important to avoid data manipulation and helps to track any claimant who is tampering with the system to benefit from any social aid.

d) Reinforcement of Regulatory Functions through Maintenance of Database / Management Information Reports

The use of ICT was recommended as a corruption prevention strategy to public bodies to reinforce their regulatory duties and ensure compliance to the relevant legislations as follows:

- Maintenance of Database for Regulatory Functions
  The implementation of a computerised system with an integrated database with updated and real-time information provides the public bodies with a structured approach to exercise regulatory functions and is a prerequisite to ensure transparency, objectivity, fairness, and to prevent corruption and/or malpractices.

- Management Information Reports for better decision-making
  In-built IT systems in public bodies help the easy generation of Management Information Reports thereby easing the process of decision-making and structured planning. The use of timely and concise management information reports also brings more accountability in public bodies.

IV. OTHER ICAC INITIATIVES

In view of sustaining the anti-corruption momentum in public bodies, the ICAC is advocating for the following additional initiatives:

- Development of a Best Practice Guide – Information Technology Systems Security
  The ICAC is working in close collaboration with the public sector in view of drafting a comprehensive set of guidelines in view of promoting judicious use of IT systems and processes. The core objective of the Best Practice Guide is to bring about a common understanding of the required ethical norms with respect to the use of IT systems and the responsibilities of the public official therein. The Guide is still at the draft stage.

- Online Learning Management System
  Almost all systems and processes in the public sector are being subject to computerisation prompting for e-learning as a complementary learning approach. In this vein, an Online Learning Management System (LMS) has been adopted by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms in 2016. The LMS, which is being implemented in collaboration with the UNDP in three phases, would be culminating into the development of web-based courses for public officials.
In view of providing the anti-corruption perspective to the LMS, the ICAC has developed one module on anti-corruption and related issues. The LMS is meant to empower public officers to recognise, resist, reject and report corruption while reinforcing public sector integrity. It contains some essential elements of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) 2002, case studies on corruption, highlights of corruption risk areas/management, and anti-corruption tools which can be used to enhance organisational integrity in the public sector. This anti-corruption module is expected to be uploaded on the LMS soon.

**INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT**

In view of reinforcing public sector integrity, the ICAC has developed an Integrity Management Toolkit. This Toolkit is meant to guide Integrity Officers in fostering a culture of integrity in their respective organisations and will be available in e-version. Effective use of this toolkit by Integrity officers will no doubt enhance their understanding of public sector corruption and reduce its impact on the organisation. The Toolkit paves the way for an integrated model of public sector governance where effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, accountability, integrity, effective controls and ethics would be the norm, thus, making both management and staff allies in the consolidation of an ethical organisational culture.

**ICAC IT FORENSIC LAB**

The ICAC is called upon to handle corruption and money laundering cases where the modus operandi of the offences are IT-driven. Thus, the use of multiple IT related technologies are being made in committing those offences.

In view of addressing such emerging technologies, the ICAC has set up an IT Forensic Lab with the assistance of the US Embassy through the provision of IT equipment and relevant software. Also, in view of easing this process, a number of training sessions have been conducted for investigators by the International Law Enforcement Academy in collaboration with the US Secret Service; and under the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Programme under the US Bureau of Diplomatic Security on Cyber Unit Management and the Digital Forensics and Investigations.

Following those trainings, many ICAC officers are now “EnCase recognized” which implies that they are recognized users of the international cybercrime software. For the time being, the Cybercrime Unit of the Mauritius Police Force is entrusted with the responsibility of handling IT-driven corruption and money laundering offences.

**ONLINE REPORTING OF ALLEGED CASES OF CORRUPTION**

The ICAC has developed a secured online reporting form on its corporate website where it receives complaints pertaining to alleged cases of corruption. It is to be noted that such reports are done in strict confidentiality since there are strict security norms which are abided to with respect to online reporting. In addition, this mode of reporting provides the informer with the choice of remaining anonymous or disclosing their identity.

V. **IMPACT OF ICT IN PUBLIC BODIES**

Following the corruption prevention exercises, the implementation of ICT in the public bodies has brought about considerable changes in the areas reviewed. The impact of implementation of these measures are summarised as follows:
a) **Enhanced transparency, accountability and better controls in the public affairs**
   The use of ICT as a medium for communication, submission of applications and among others has contributed in the wide dissemination of Information and accessibility to one and all. These measures have enhanced transparency, fairness and accountability in the public affairs. Furthermore, it resulted in better safeguarding of public resources, deterring/detecting malpractices and reinforcing controls in public affairs.

b) **Improved audit trail in the systems**
   The use of ICT with controlled accesses in public bodies has had considerable impact on audit trails. Audit trails can be carried out to verify input and change of data within the systems, thus reinforcing the oversight mechanisms in place in public bodies.

c) **Streamlining of processes and speed up of service delivery**
   As a result of implementation of ICT in public bodies, processes have been streamlined, improving the workflow and ultimately speeding up the service delivery. With the adoption of ICT in the public sector, citizens can now obtain speedy public services in a hassle-free and convenient manner.

d) **Less Human Intervention/Interaction**
   The implementation of ICT projects have helped to reduce human intervention/interaction in the public bodies. Face-to-face contacts between public officials and the citizens provides grounds for corruption and the use of ICT has changed the way public affairs are conducted.

e) **Greater Customer Satisfaction**
   The use of ICT has undoubtedly enhanced the delivery of public services which has resulted in greater customer satisfaction. Given the high e-literacy rate among the citizens and high IT penetration in Mauritian society, the utilisation of ICT in public bodies has changed the way public affairs are conducted and public services are delivered with more transparency, fairness, accessibility, promptness and effectiveness.

f) **Reduced risks of corruption and malpractices**
   Less human interaction and more IT-based systems and processes lead to situations where opportunities for corrupt practices are reduced since the direct contact between the service seeker and the service provider are minimised.

VI. **CONCLUSION**

A comprehensive ICT reform can significantly decrease corruption opportunities by increasing transparency, reducing systemic hurdles, eliminating administrative red tape, increasing the risk of detection, enhancing accountability mechanisms and ultimately improving service delivery by employing user-friendly administrative systems. With respect to the different recommendations proposed by the ICAC to public bodies, most of these have already started reaping benefits since corruption opportunities have been largely minimised; thus public sector integrity enhanced. However, one cannot take for
granted that computerisation solely can inherently prompt for a full-proof anti-corruption system since a number of other challenges lie ahead including emerging security issues. Also, the human aspect (people integrity) is crucial in ensuring judicious use of IT and ensuring that corruption and other malpractices do not occur. Thus, public bodies should continue on instilling proper checks and balances in view of sustaining integrity of data and processes whilst safeguarding public sector integrity and avoiding emerging integrity risks.
Protection of integrity in sport by promoting good governance in sport and mitigating the risk of corruption that sport faces.

Introduction

Sports naturally serve as a vehicle for education, health, leadership and fair play but the reality is that these elements are not automatically transmitted in the different disciplines. It all depends on how sport is managed and international rules and standards are being followed. There is a need to give prominence to the goals of healthy sport practice and a real meaning to sports.

In Mauritius the Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for the creation of an enabling environment. It formulates and implements Government policies in the field of youth and sports and acts as a catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at national, regional and international levels. The Ministry has two main sections, namely the Youth Section and the Sports Section.

The objects of the Sports Section are, amongst others, to:

- provide a balanced development of sports locally through the organisation of major sports events with the help of relevant stakeholders; and
- give support and technical assistance to sports federations and other stakeholders for the development and promotion of their respective sports discipline.

All sport federations are registered with the Ministry through the Mauritius Sports Council (MSC) and the National Olympic Committee.

For horse racing, the Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) is currently the sole regulatory and governing authority. The Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) has a statutory oversight of the MTC under the provisions of the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2007.

The ICAC has been working in collaboration with the stakeholders in the sports sector to enhance the level of integrity in sports by adopting a holistic approach comprising sensitisation and empowerment, engagement and ownership with sustained efforts.

Measures to prevent corruption and promote good governance in sport

With the exception of horse racing, sport in Mauritius does not generate profits and is mainly financed through government funds. However, the sector is prone to malpractices. The National Olympic Committee in Mauritius like in most of the countries, plays a dominant role in the control of the sports federations.

For fairness, honesty, transparency and accountability to be the guiding principles in sports, the ICAC in collaboration with the main stakeholders has taken the following measures:
a) Sensitisation Campaign

A sensitisation campaign is on-going since 2009 with the sports community to promote intolerance towards corruption in sports in Mauritius. The campaign comprises face to face interactions, group discussions, workshops, posters and the placement of billboards on publicly managed sports infrastructures like stadiums, swimming pools, etc.

The focus of the sensitisation campaign is on enhancing integrity in sports in Mauritius and targeted all those who are directly or indirectly involved in sports.

b) Empowerment workshops on enhancing good governance and integrity in the administration of sports

Empowerment workshops are regularly conducted with management of all sports federations on enhancing integrity in the administration of sports in Mauritius. These workshops are organised by the Mauritius Sports Council in collaboration with the ICAC and provide opportunities for participants to discuss emerging integrity challenges and implementation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics and the Guideline for Office Bearers of National Sports Federations.

- Development of a Code of Ethics for all stakeholders of the Sports Community, and an Ethical Guideline for Office Bearers of National Sports Federations

With a view to promote integrity in sports and to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship, the Ministry of Youth and Sports through the Mauritius Sports Council in collaboration with the Independent Commission Against Corruption came up in 2010 with the above-mentioned Code and Guideline.

These two tools set out principles and standards to guide behaviour of those involved in the world of sports with a view to nurture the spirit of sportsmanship. They call on all sportsmen and sportswomen, office bearers, referees, managers, administrators, trainers, coaches and fans to comply with the provisions of the code and the guideline.

The Code of Ethics is meant to boost up ethical standards and judgements and strengthen support for individuals' moral courage. It is a reflection of the morally permissible standards of conduct and virtues which all stakeholders should make binding upon them. It provides a sound ethical framework to reinforce integrity and combat unwanted pressures within the sporting community which appear to be undermining the very traditional foundations of sports foundations built on sportsmanship and on the voluntary movement; the primary concerns and focuses of which are based on fairplay, good governance, accountability, and integrity.

The code deals with: the respect for laws and regulations; accountability and transparency; conflict of interests; abuse of position/offices; confidentiality of information; use of official facilities and equipment; respect for others; harassment and discrimination; political neutrality; drug-free practice of sports; hard work and dedication; respecting the rules that govern the discipline; displaying and maintaining high level of professionalism; sanctions and internal reporting.

The elaboration of a code of ethics was more than essential and vital to assert that ethical consideration be an integral and not optional element, of all sports activity, sports policy and management, and be applied to all levels of ability and commitment, including recreational as well as competitive sports.
The Ethical Guideline on the other hand complements the existing guidelines of the Ministry and aims to ensure that the objectives of the code are met in a fair, ethical and accountable manner. It provides sports federations with acceptable parameters and framework where they can evolve for the interests, promotion and advancement of the sports discipline hence avoiding unwanted conflicts.

The Ethical Guideline deals with: *general principles* (integrity, accountability, trust, legality, collective responsibility); protecting the interest of the federations; effective governance; the role of the president; responsibilities of office bearers; respect for the law; relationship with other office bearers and management; conflict of interests; use of confidential information; decision-making; non-discrimination; accountability; gifts and benefits, reporting grievances and malpractices and enforcement of the code.

c) Corruption Prevention Review (CPR) on the procurement of professional sports bikes at the Ministry of Youth and Sports

The CPR was motivated by a number of complaints of alleged acts of corruption and malpractices received at the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). It concerned the procurement of professional sports bikes at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The CPR examined the systems, procedures and practices regarding the above procurement exercise and recommended measures to secure the revision of methods of work and procedures that may be conducive to corruption. The report was meant for the management of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and aimed mainly to communicate the:

(i) systemic weaknesses regarding the procurement of goods at the Ministry; and

(ii) relevant recommendations to address the weaknesses and strengthen the procurement framework for improved fairness, transparency and accountability.

Following the release of the CPR report and the conduct of a follow-up exercise undertaken to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of recommendations, and to identify constraints, if any, it was encouraging to note that almost all the recommendations had been implemented or were being implemented by the Ministry. The recommendations with respect to the procurement process have been extended to the whole procurement process of the sports section of the Ministry.

**Impact of the recommendations**

The procurement practices have changed significantly to eliminate integrity risks. These include prior registration of suppliers, ensuring right specifications, having the proper oversight mechanism that includes a Committee of Needs and a Departmental Bid Committee and procedures to deal with conflict of interests.

The Ministry has issued to all staffs guidelines on the prevention of corruption and an extract from the Public Procurement Act 2006, as amended, on Procurement Integrity, for strict compliance.

d) Implementation of anti-corruption measures at the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework The Ministry of Youth and Sports has embarked on the implementation of the framework since 2013. It concerns all the departments falling under the aegis of the Ministry. The framework is a risk-based self-assessment mechanism to enhance organisational
integrity in public bodies. It has accordingly set up an Anti-Corruption Committee, adopted an anti-corruption policy and embarked on the corruption risk management phase.

The Anti-Corruption Committee is actually implementing the anti-corruption measures following a risk assessment of the procurement process at the level of the Ministry and the departments.

**Integrity Officers:** The process has been further consolidated by the designation and training of two senior public officers of the Ministry of Youth and Sports to act as integrity officers. The Integrity Officer project complements the Public Sector Anti-corruption Framework and is expected to contribute to the establishment of an enduring ethical culture, help prevent corruption and effectively address it.

The Integrity Officers participated in a training course that was conducted in two phases: an Initial Training and an Advance Training that was facilitated by a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer of the Corruption and Economic Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). One of the outcome of the Advance Training for Integrity Officers conducted in August 2015 was an Integrity Management Toolkit which focuses on public sector integrity and is meant to guide Integrity Officers in fostering a culture of integrity in their respective organisations.

e) **Proposals for amendment to the POCA to include offences in sports**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption Against Corruption (ICAC) is concerned with the fact that the current statutory provisions under its enabling legislation, does not allow the Commission to investigate corruption in any sporting events, including horse racing.

There is a need to be proactive and act before the sport sector is plagued with corruption. The ICAC looks forward to the leaders of the different federations and national committees to be the role models by setting the standard very high in the sports community.

**Commission of Enquiry on Horse Racing in Mauritius**

A Commission of Inquiry on Horse Racing in Mauritius was set-up in September 2014 by the Prime Minister’s Office of the Republic of Mauritius. The President of the Republic appointed a Commissioner to Chair the Inquiry, with two fellow Commissioners as Assessors. The Commission released its report in March 2015.

According to the Commission of Enquiry, the illegal betting market is helping to fund corruption in horse racing, and the integrity of horse racing in Mauritius is at an all-time low.

**Proposals for amendment to the POCA to include offences in sports**

The ICAC Parliamentary Committee agreed that an amendment be brought to the Prevention of Corruption Act, to allow the Commission to investigate corruption in horse racing as well, as in other sporting events.

Subsequently, the Attorney General’s office prepared a draft Bill, and it was agreed that Section 2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act be amended to cater for the definition of Sporting event as including any sporting activity and horse racing. Furthermore, it was agreed that a new Section be inserted in the Act to define the offence.
The proposed amendments are under consideration and will not no doubt be one of the various measures that can be used to tackle corruption in horse racing.

Conclusion

Sport, like any other segment of active life, has not been spared by the pervasiveness of corruption. It has crept in to become a threat to fair competition and to the detriment of good sportsmanship. The risk to integrity in sports cannot be underestimated, as corruption is increasingly becoming global and affecting new sectors of the economy.

Corruption scandals that have rocked the sports community at the highest level during the present decade show the lack of integrity of both systems and people in this field. The ICAC is fully aware of the risks of corruption and malpractices in sports in Mauritius and will gradually increase its anticorruption actions with stakeholders at the national level to ensure integrity in the management of sports and prevent it from being plagued by corruption and other malpractices.