

GOOD PRACTICES AND INITIATIVES IN THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION

The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for the implementation of the Convention in order to facilitate public sector transparency and combat corruption

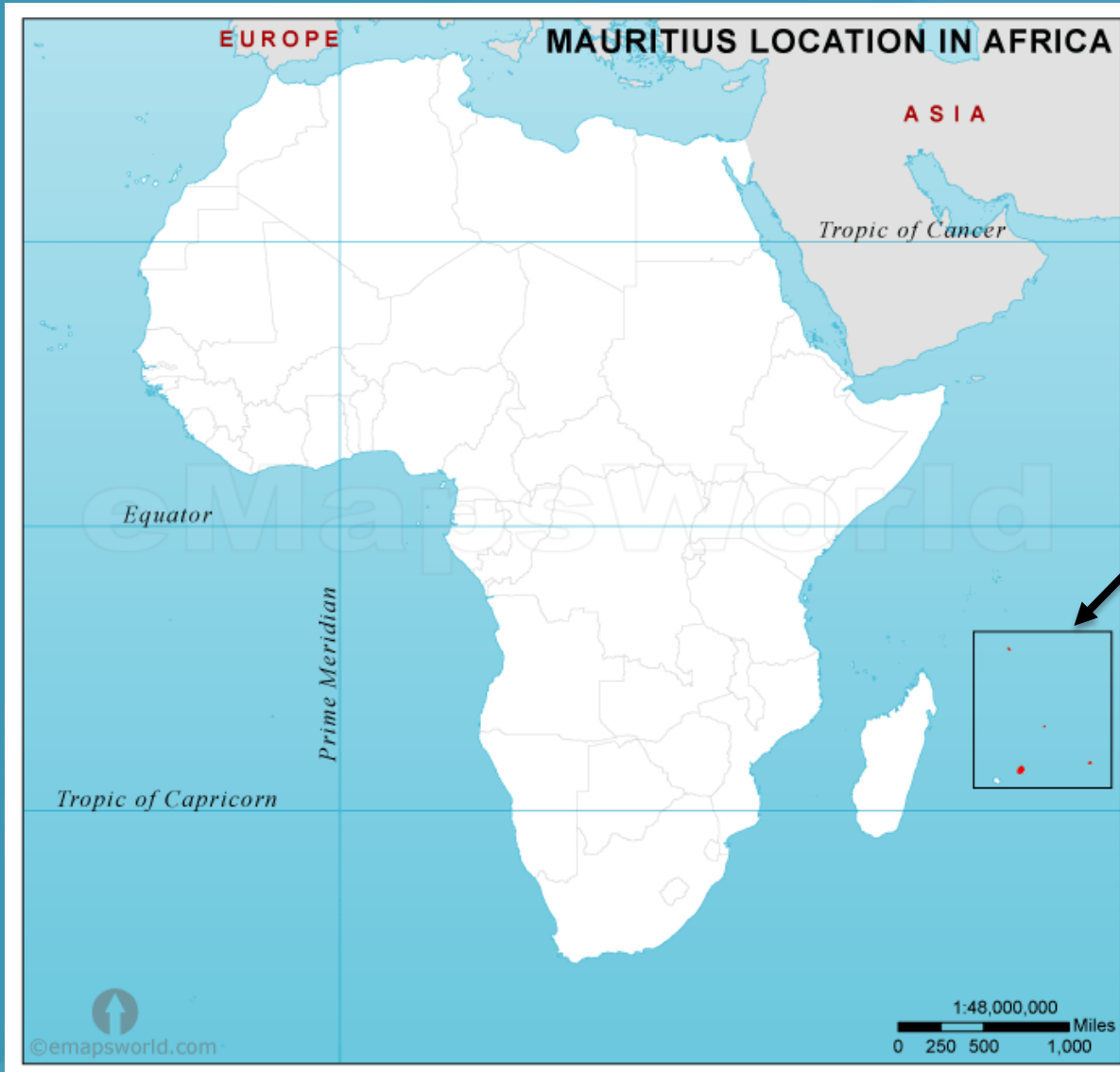
Mr Y. Hossenbux
Chief Corruption Prevention Officer
Corruption Prevention and Education Division
Independent Commission Against Corruption
MAURITIUS



OUTLINE

- **The Republic of Mauritius**
- **Evolution of the procurement framework**
- **Use of ICT to promote integrity in procurement**
- **Other ICT-based public sector initiatives adopted by the Mauritian Government**
- **ICT-based recommendations proposed by the ICAC Mauritius to boost up public sector integrity**
- **Impact of ICT in public bodies**

THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



- Mauritius is a small island found in the region of East Africa
- About 2,000 kilometres off the southeast coast of the African continent
- Population: Around 1.3 million
- Capital: Port Louis

EVOLUTION OF THE PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK

- Establishment of procurement legislations and institutions
- Use of ICT to promote integrity in procurement
- Online procurement information provided to users

USE OF ICT TO PROMOTE INTEGRITY IN PROCUREMENT

- Online information provided to users for better transparency and fairness:
 - Circulars on procurement
 - Procurement laws and regulations
 - Bid documents
 - Annual procurement plans

EVOLUTION OF PROCUREMENT WITH THE USE OF ICT

- Procurement awards published by public bodies on their websites
- Installation of camera surveillance system by public bodies at the location of the tender box and during bid opening

THE GOVERNMENT E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (e-PS)

- Involvement of all public bodies and suppliers to electronically conduct procurement proceedings
- To enable public bodies proceedings from invitation to bid up to contract award
- Availability of e-procurement application
- Operation management of the e-PS

OPERATION MANAGEMENT OF THE e-PS

- Procurement Policy Office – Project Implementation Unit
 - Change management
 - e-procurement IT skill capacity building of procurement personnel, technical staff, management, and suppliers to operate e-PS
- Help desk to provide assistance to e-PS users

ADVANTAGES OF e-PS

- Opportunities for both private sector and public sector
- Deepen use of ICT in work environment
- Modernise the way public bodies carry out procurement
- Flatten bureaucracy

E-PROCUREMENT AS A CORRUPTION PREVENTION MEASURE

- Enhance transparency and accountability in the system
- Limit the discretion of public officials involved in procurement
- Better dissemination of information

OTHER ICT-BASED PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATIVES

- **Enhanced ICT legislative framework:** ICT Act 2001, Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act 2003, Data Protection Act 2004
- **Mauritius e-registry project:** Registration of information regarding land ownership, deeds and documents related to transfer of vehicles, amongst others
- **Computerised systems in public bodies**

MAURITIUS E-REGISTRY PROJECT

- The Mauritius Registrar-General Department has transformed its services into electronic mode.
- Stakeholders through electronic medium can submit documents, pay fees and carry out registrations.

COMPUTERISED SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC BODIES

- Websites
- CCTV
- Online information
- E-citizen (Online complaint, application)

ICT-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE ICAC MAURITIUS TO BOOST PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY

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:

- **transparency and accountability**
- **administrative procedural simplicity leading to prompt service delivery**
- **effective controls and monitoring**

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Use of websites to disseminate relevant information in public bodies

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURAL SIMPLICITY

Reduction of red tapism leading to hassle-free public service delivery through computerised Systems in public bodies and online services

EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND MONITORING

- **CCTV System**
- **Electronic Attendance / Global Positioning System (GPS)**
- **Maintenance of Database and Management Information Reports**

ONLINE SERVICES

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION EXERCISES

- Advertisement of 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

OTHER ICAC INITIATIVES

- **BEST PRACTICE GUIDE – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS SECURITY**

Guidelines in view of promoting judicious use of IT systems and processes through ethical norms

- **ONLINE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Development of web-based courses for public officials

- **INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT**

Meant to guide Integrity Officers in fostering a culture of integrity in their respective organisations

- **ONLINE REPORTING OF ALLEGED CASES OF CORRUPTION**



IMPACT OF ICT IN PUBLIC BODIES

- Enhanced transparency, accountability and better controls in the public affairs
- Improved audit trail in the systems
- Streamlining of processes and speeding up of service delivery
- Less human Intervention/interaction
- Reduced risks of corruption and malpractices