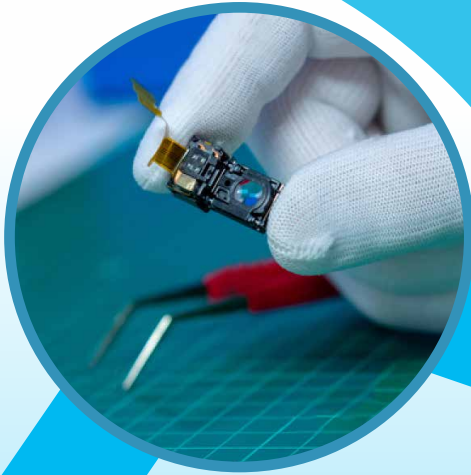




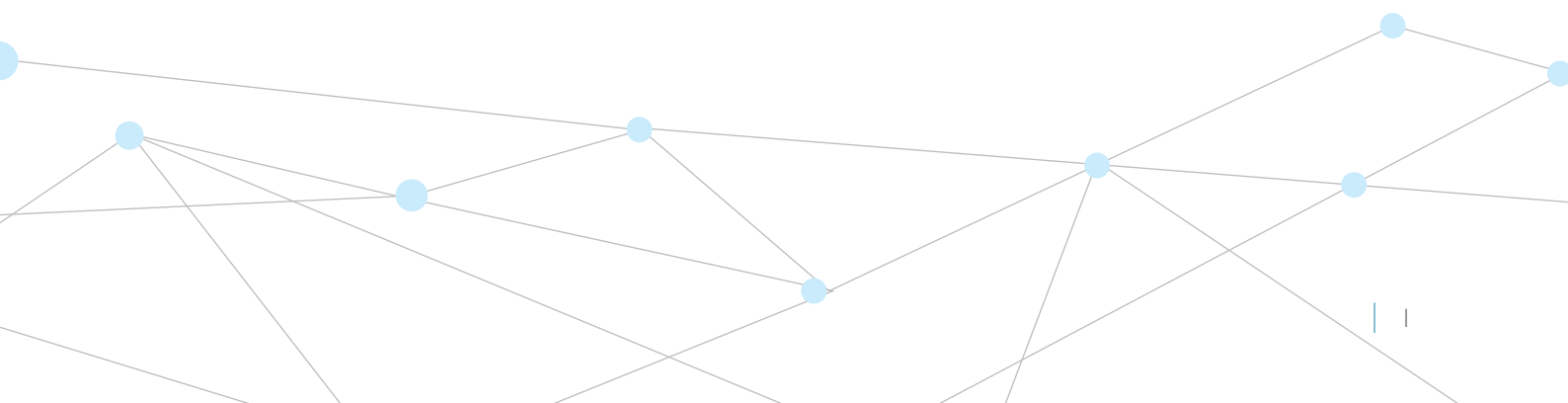
MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

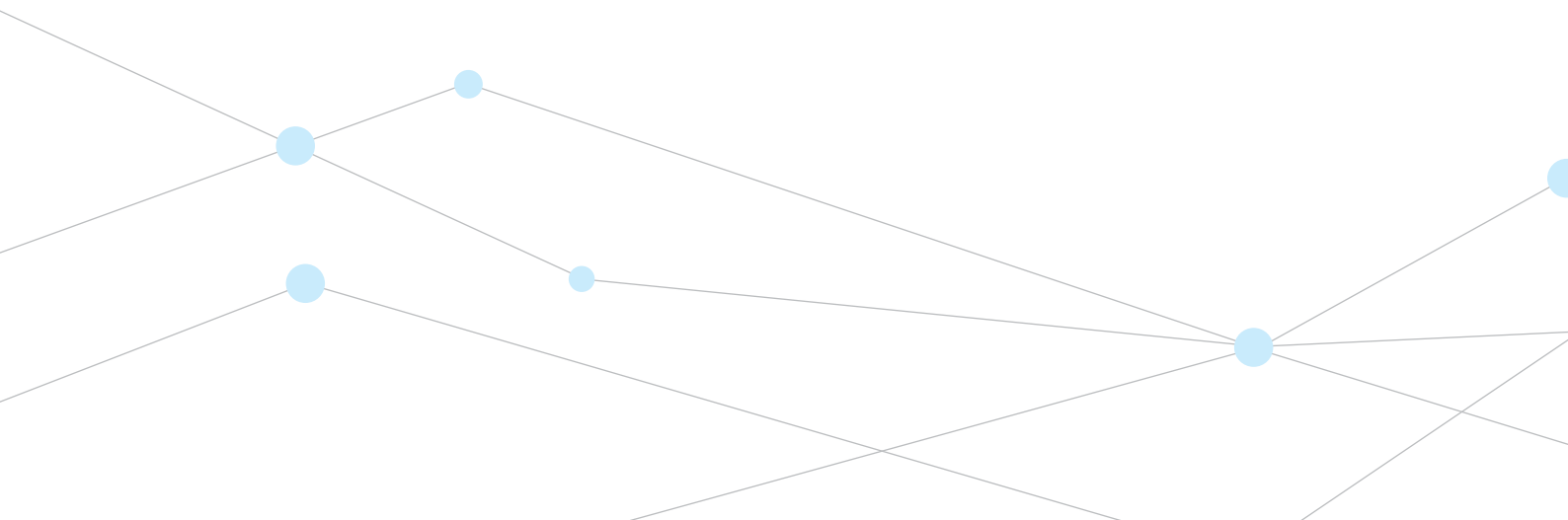


ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
July to August 2019

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PART I:  
**ABOUT THE  
MAURITIUS  
RESEARCH  
COUNCIL**

The Mauritius Research Council (MRC)<sup>1</sup> was set up in May 1992 (Act no. 10 of 1992) as an apex body to promote and co-ordinate national investment in research. The Mauritius Research Council (Amendment) Act 2014 (Act No.1 of 2014) was proclaimed [Proclamation No. 33 of 2014] with effect from 1 September 2014: (Section 8); Government Gazette of Mauritius No. 36 of 19 April 2014.

## Our Vision:

“Shaping up the Mauritius of tomorrow through research, technology and innovation”

## Our Mission:

“Promoting and pioneering research for sustainable development to enhance the quality of life of the people of Mauritius”

## Objectives of the Council

The objectives of MRC as enunciated in the MRC Act 1992 are to:

- (a) Foster, promote and co-ordinate research and development in all spheres of scientific, technological, social and economic activities;
- (b) Advise the government on all matters concerning scientific and technological policies;
- (c) Lay guidelines for, and initiate the formulation of research and development policies on a national basis; and
- (d) Encourage commercial utilisation of research and development results in the national interest.

<sup>1</sup> On the 1st of September 2019, the Mauritius Research Council Act was repealed and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019 came into force with a new set of objectives and functions.

## Letter from the Chairperson



Dr K. Sukon

The Hon, D.Balgobin  
Level 7, Sicom Tower,  
Wall Street,  
Ebene Cybercity,  
Ebene

Honourable Minister,

As required by Act No. 10 of 1992, I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Mauritius Research Council for the period 01 July 2019 to 31 August 2019. It should be noted that the fact and figures in this report relate to a period when we (Chairman and Executive Director) did not hold office except for the last fifteen days in the month of June 2020.

Yours faithfully,



**Dr K. Sukon**  
Chairperson

## Statement from Officer In Charge



Dr N. Gopaul

The period July-August 2019 has been one of preparation for the anticipated transition of the Council to its new status as the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council, which will be emphasized by even more engagement with enterprises turning towards research and innovation.

Following passage of the MRIC Bill in the National Assembly on the 7th May 2019, proclamation is expected shortly.

Progress has continued for the new schemes functioning on the principle of matching grants and cost sharing. Similarly, international collaboration has enabled further advance on the tests and validation of the cube satellite.

The Council is continuously building forward its activities in the coordination of applied research and is looking forward to widen its scope in line with the new functions that will come under the new act. This will see an increasing shift from an advisory role to having a more direct involvement in steering collaborative applied research and development, aligned with the country's increased emphasis on innovation for driving the economy.



Prof T. Bahorun  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Bahorun', is positioned above the printed name and title of Prof T. Bahorun.

## Roles and Functions of the Mauritius Research Council

As an apex body to promote and co-ordinate national investment in research, the Council is mandated to foster, promote and co-ordinate research and development in all spheres of scientific, technological, social and economic activities and encourage commercial utilisation of research and development results in the national interest.

In line with its main role of a funding agency, the Council has constantly reviewed its funding schemes to meet the needs of the country. In 2017-2018, the Council moved away from its traditional research funding schemes to focus on schemes for the promotion of innovation and commercialisation. New schemes were developed to respond to the need for applied research aimed at wealth creation and job creation. The schemes advocate a risk sharing and matching grant approach to funding research and innovation projects.

The schemes being promoted by the Council are (1) Social Innovation and Research Grant Scheme (SIRGS), (2) Collaborative Research and Innovation Scheme (CRIGS), (3) Proof of Concept Scheme (PCS), (4) National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS), (5) Intellectual Property Promotion Scheme (IPPS), (6) Pole of Innovation Grant Scheme (PoIGS) and (7) Research and Innovation Bridges (RIB).

## Brief Overview of the Centers under the Council

### Technology Transfer Office

The Technology Transfer Office was set up with the aim of providing technical and legal support to local inventors and innovators, as well as helping to identify, manage and make commercial use of their Intellectual Property (IP) assets. The activities of the TTO are directed towards a wide range of stakeholders, including academia/universities, the business community (especially SMEs) and innovators from public and private sectors.

### Rodrigues Office of the MRC

The Rodrigues Office of the MRC was launched at Port Mathurin on 31st October 2011. The office was set up to facilitate interactions between the Head Office and stakeholders in Rodrigues while addressing specific Research and Innovation issues on the island. The staff of the Rodrigues Office interacts closely with the community on the island including Commissions, NGOs and Entrepreneurs. The activities of the Office have led to a number of concrete outcomes such as new products, new policies and set up of new cooperatives.

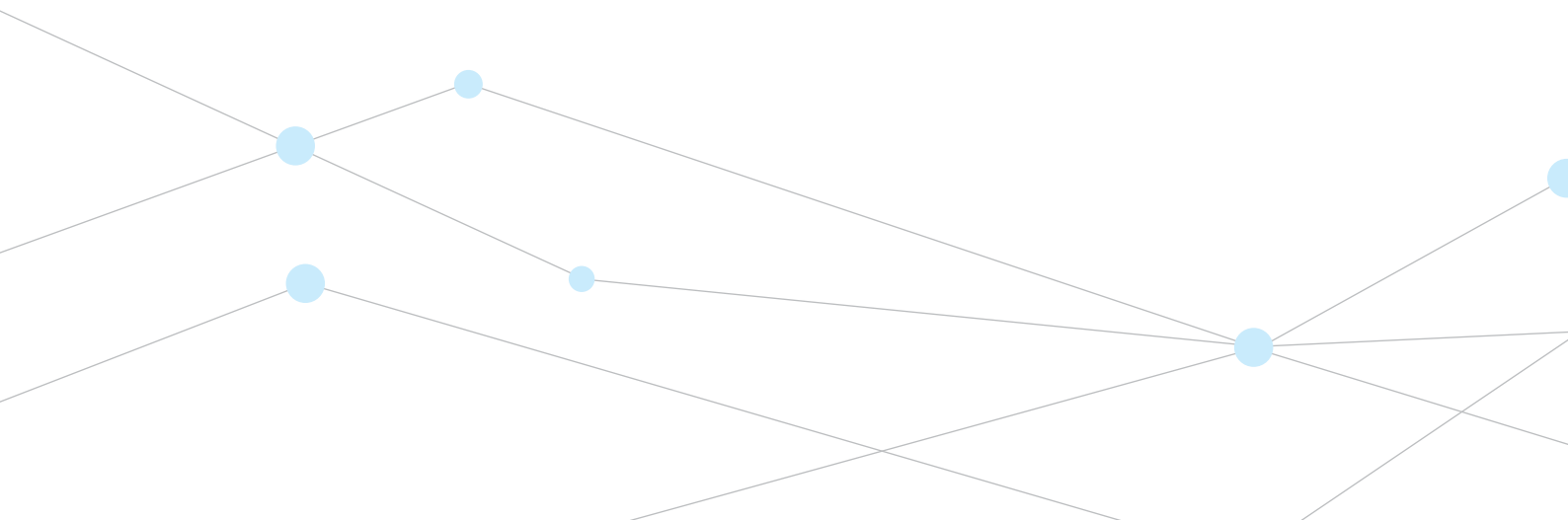
### Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR)

The Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR) is the social research arm of the Council. It has, over the years, developed an expertise in carrying out nationwide social surveys as well as social research projects using a variety of relevant research methodologies. CASR undertakes all its research projects and its data collection with high standards of objectivity and academic rigour. The research outcomes of most of its studies are of direct policy relevance to address in a positive manner the problem areas investigated.

## About Our People

- The Executive Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council and is, subject to the provisions of MRC Act 1992, responsible for the implementation of all decisions of the Board and for carrying out all the day-to-day activities of the Council.
- The Executive Director is also responsible to the Board for the execution of policy and the control and management of the day-to-day business of the Council.
- The Executive Director is assisted in his responsibilities by a team of 54 staff in July 2019 and 55 staff in August 2019. The team supports the Council in the effective implementation of its objectives and in strengthening our strategic focus, communications, governance and service delivery.







PART II:  
**CORPORATE  
GOVERNANCE  
REPORT**

## 1.1 The Board

The Board is ultimately responsible and accountable for the performance and affairs of the organisation. The fulfilling of these responsibilities is facilitated by a well-developed governance structure comprising various Board Sub-Committees. Management is accountable and subject to the control of the Board and operates within the policy framework laid down by the latter. All functions are exercised in accordance with the MRC Act, other relevant statutory provisions and the principles of good corporate governance.

### Composition of the Board

The Board is composed of representatives from the government, academia and the private sector as listed in the MRC Act. The Board met one time during the period July 2019 to August 2019 (MRC Act was proclaimed in September 2019).

The Chairman and members of the Board are appointed by the Minister, to whom responsibility of the Board is assigned in accordance with Section 5 of the MRC Act. The Executive Director is appointed by the Board. The profiles of the Board members for the period July 2019 to August 2019 are given in Section 1.12.

#### Attendance at Board Meetings

Mauritius Research Council

Meetings of the Board

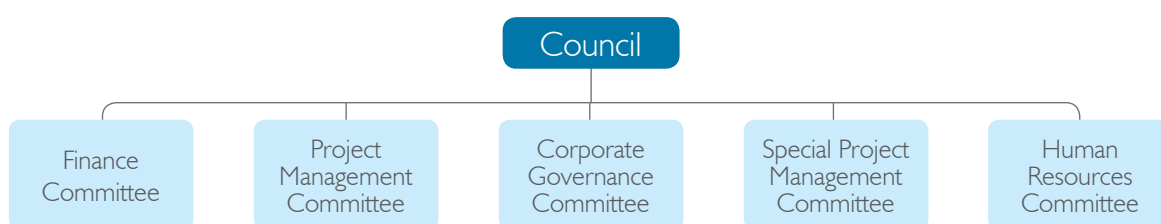
Members	Attendance	Payment (Rs)
Dr M Atchia	1/1	
<i>Ex-Officio Secretary</i> Dr N Gopaul, Officer-in-Charge	1/1	see note 1.3
<b>Representatives of Government</b>		
Representative from Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation: Mr R Bheekhoo	1/1	1,000
Representative from Prime Minister's Office: Ms K Kautick	1/1	1,000
Representative of Ministry of Finance and Economic Development: Mrs S Rama	1/1	1,000
Representative of Ministry of Education, Human Resource, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research: Mr V Bhurosah	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security: Mr R S Sonea	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection: Mr B A Seedoyal	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Authority: Mr J R Oh-Seng	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands (Fisheries Division): Mrs M S Koonjul	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands (Ocean Economy Division): Mrs H Ramnath	1/1	1,000
Mrs M Timol, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life	-	-
<b>Representatives of Academia and Private Sector:</b>		
Prof D Jhurry, Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius	1/1	1,000
Dr S Saumtally, Mauritius Cane Industry Authority	-	-

## Major Decisions of the MRC Board for the period July 2019 to August 2019

1. Board approved the launching of the 2nd edition of the National Innovation Challenge
2. Board approved the policy of the Council for Foreign Nationals to apply for MRC Research and Innovation Schemes.
3. Board took note of the progress made with regard to the ranking of Mauritius on the Global Innovation Index.
4. Board took note of the progress made to date on the MIR-SAT I project

## 1.2 Board Sub-Committees

Five (5) subsidiary committees were set up for assisting the Board in discharging its duties and responsibilities. These are, namely, the Project Management Committee, Special Project Management Committee, Finance Committee, Corporate Governance Committee and Human Resources Committee.



### Project Management Committee

The Project Management Committee (PMC) was set up to consider and evaluate studies/research proposals. The PMC devises criteria for selection of proposals, examines the technical and financial feasibility of proposals and makes recommendations to the Board. The Committee may call upon such persons as in its opinion may assist it in the performance of its duties.

#### Meetings of the Project Management Committee

Members	Attendance	Payment (Rs)
Dr S Saumtally, Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Authority	1/1	1,000
Representative of Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research; Mr V Bhurosah	1/1	1,000
Representatives of Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security: Mr R S Sonea	1/1	1,000
Representative of Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Authority Mr J Oh Seng	1/1	1,000
Dr N Gopaul, MRC	1/1	see note 1.3

## Human Resources Committee

Members	Attendance	Payment (Rs)
Mr R S Sonea, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security	1/1	1,000
Mr M I Mohamedhosen, Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation		
Representative of Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands:		
Mrs H Ramnath	1/1	1,000
Dr N Gopaul, MRC	1/1	see note 1.3

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee evaluates and recommends all procurements above Rs 800,001 to Board for approval.

### Meetings of the Finance Committee

Members	Attendance	Payment (Rs)
Mrs S.Rama, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	1/1	1000
Mr S.Ramsaha, Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands	1/1	1,000
Mrs R. Sonea, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security	1/1	1,000
Dr A Suddhoo, MRC	1/1	see note 1.3

## Audit Committee

Given the size and operation of the Council, the Board agreed not to set up an Audit Committee.

## 1.4 Risk Management

Given that risk management is one of the most important components of Corporate Governance, the MRC is consolidating its risk management functions. Risk management is embedded in its day to day operations and in its management culture. Moreover, during PMC, any risks associated with sponsored projects are monitored.

## 1.5 Internal Control

Internal control is the responsibility of everyone within the MRC. However, it is the Council's role to ensure that procedures and practices are in place to protect MRC's assets and reputation. The Council regularly reviews processes and procedures to ensure the effectiveness of the MRC's Internal Control Systems and proper segregation of duties.

## 1.6 Quality Management System

As a means to further enhance its customer satisfaction in conformity to stakeholders' statutory and regulatory requirements, the MRC implemented a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001: 2008. The Quality Management System at MRC covered all its operations, processes and activities of the organisation as required by ISO 9001:2008 and was reviewed for continual improvement and enhancement of customer satisfaction and in conformity to the stakeholder's statutory and regulatory requirements. The MRC was ISO 9001:2008 certified from July 2016 to September 2018.

The Council is currently engaged in a new exercise for the implementation of a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001: 2015.

## 1.7 Safety and Health

The MRC is fully committed to maintaining health and safety of all its employees. In order to get prepared and to respond effectively to emergencies, the Council has a Safety and Health Policy.

## 1.8. Gender Equality Statement

MRC is committed to promoting gender equality and to ensuring equality of opportunity and outcomes for all staff and stakeholders.

## 1.9 Corporate Social Responsibilities

Given that the MRC is a non-profit making organization, no CSR contribution has to be made.

## 1.10 Strategic Plan

The Council is in the process of developing its Strategic Plan in line with the roles and functions of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019 as well as the strategies laid out in the National Innovation Framework. The draft Strategic Plan approved by the Board of the Council focused on the following strategies:

- To develop relevant innovation policies and strategies to facilitate the transformation of Mauritius into an innovation-driven economy
- To encourage knowledge creation, transformation, management and dissemination for commercialisation
- To contribute towards the development of an entrepreneurial culture
- To promote emerging sectors
- To promote Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer for innovation
- To facilitate citizen engagement and promote social innovation to address societal issues
- To engage in a process of internationalisation through developing Regional and International Cooperation
- To strengthen the organisational support to achieve MRC's goals

## 1.11 Related Party Transactions

During the period 01 July 2019 to 31 August 2019, the Council has no related party transaction.

## 1.12 Profile of Board Members



### **Dr Michael ATCHIA**

**Position:** Chairman, MRC (as from March 2018)

**Qualifications:** A graduate from these Universities: Calcutta (B.Sc with Distinction); London (BSc); Chelsea College of Science and Technology (Postgraduate diplomas in Microbiology, 1st class); Institute of Biology (MIBIOL); Salford in Manchester (MSc, PhD, DSc).

**Experience:** A senior Mauritian consultant in the Education, Curriculum development and planning and in the Environmental Education sectors, with wide international experience. He has been a Programme Director at UNEP (Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit) in Nairobi from 1986 to 1996, responsible during the same period for the “International Environmental Education Programme” of UNESCO/UNEP, active in over 100 member states. He has gained his professional experience in both developing countries (of Africa, Asia, and South America) and in Eastern and Western Europe/North America/Australia. Dr Atchia is credited of having launched the new field of *integrated environmental management* as the co-author of the publication by John Wiley in 1995 of *ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS, Integrated Environmental Management*, Editors Michael Atchia and Shawna Tropp). Dr Atchia was an Associate Professor and science co-ordinator at the MIE (1974-1986), as part of the original team which carried out the mauritianisation of the school curriculum and wrote the first text-books. After retirement in 2003 he spent 2 years at the Ministry of Education Mauritius, as Senior Advisor to the Minister. Was responsible (1986-1996) for designing and administering Integrated Environmental Management Training for cadres from developing countries, in collaboration with Universities in Dresden, Geneva, Nairobi, Boston, and Adelaide amongst others. He was responsible for relationships of UN with over 100 centres of Excellence world-wide in the specific field of Environment and development. From 1997 to 2003, after his retirement from the UN, he was a Director of Education in Mauritius responsible for 77 Diocesan institutions. He is a founder Fellow of the Mauritian Academy of Science and Technology, launched in July 2007. Also, a regular press commentator and, for over 40 years, a presenter of Educational TV programmes with the Mauritius College of the Air.

Currently: President of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology

### **Mr Ramesh Bheekhoo**

Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation

### **Mrs Subhashini Rama**

Director, Economic and Finance  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

**Mr Vedanand Bhurosah**

Acting Director

Ministry of Education, Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research

**Dr Mohammad Khalil Elahee**

Associate Professor

University of Mauritius

**Mr Ravin Rampersad**

Chief Executive Officer

Small and Medium Enterprises, Mauritius

**Dr Sudhirsan Kowlessur**

Chief Health Promotion and Resesarch Coordinator

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life

**Mr Kevin Ramkaloan**

Chief Executive Officer

Business Mauritius

**Mr Vimal Hans Peerthy**

Co-Director, Elocath Indian Ocean Ltd and

Director, NeuroMem Technologies (Mauritius) Ltd



# Directors' Responsibility Statement

## Financial Statements

The Board of the MRC acknowledges its responsibilities for and confirms that:

- Adequate accounting records and effective system of internal controls have been maintained
- The preparation of Financial Statements fairly presents the state of affairs of the Council as at the end of the financial year and results of its operations and cash flows for that period and comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and
- Appropriate Accounting Policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates have been used consistently; and
- Applicable Accounting Standards have been adhered to.

## Risk Management

The Board is responsible for the system of internal control and Risk Management for the Mauritius Research Council. The Council is committed to maintaining a sound system of risk management and adequate control procedures with a view to safeguarding its assets.

The Board believes that the Council's systems of internal control and risk management provide reasonable assurance that control and risk issues are identified, reported on and dealt with appropriately.

## Governance

The Board Members will endeavor to apply principles of good governance at the level of the Mauritius Research Council.



Dr K. Sukon  
Chairperson  
Mauritius Research and Innovation Council



Prof T. Bahorun  
Executive Director  
Mauritius Research and Innovation Council

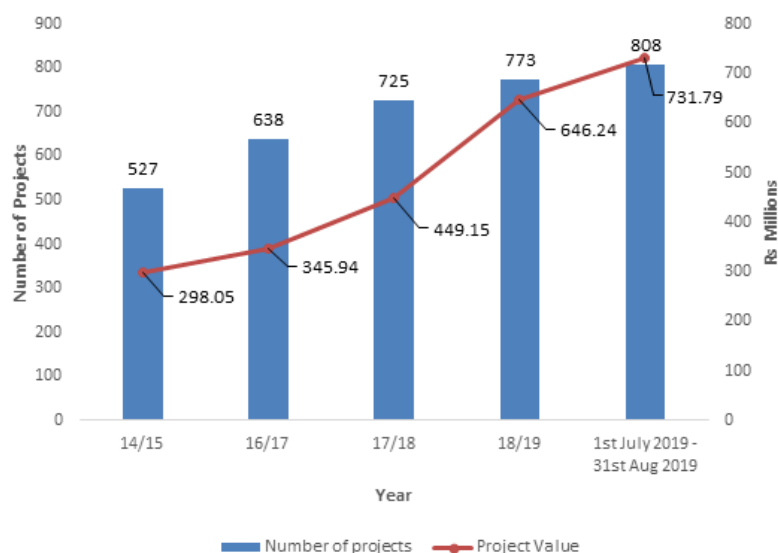


PART III:  
**ACHIEVEMENTS  
& CHALLENGES**

## Portfolio

The portfolio of the Council consists of 808 projects with project value of Rs 731.79 million as at 31st August 2019. Chart 1 shows the trend of the Council's research portfolio over the past 5 years.

Chart 1: Evolution of Research Portfolio



The above chart shows the relationship between the total project value and the number of projects over the last 5 years. The total number of projects has increased from 527 to 778 while the project value has increased from Rs 298.05 million to Rs 731.79 million. This steep increase is mainly due to projects with commercial potential being sponsored under matching grants schemes of the Council.

For the period 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019, the portfolio consisted of 119 ongoing and 5 completed projects. A breakdown of the projects per scheme is provided below:

Scheme	Ongoing Projects	Completed Projects	Total No. of Projects
Unsolicited Research and Innovation Grant Scheme	31	3	34
Small Scale Research and Innovation Grant Scheme	5	1	6
Post Graduate Award	34	-	34
Collaborative Research and Innovation Grant Scheme	8	1	9
High Performance Computing Research and Innovation Grant	4	-	4
Biotechnology Research and Innovation Grant	2	-	2
Social Innovation and Research Grant Scheme	2	-	2
Pole of Innovation Grant Scheme	4	-	4
Research and Innovation Bridges	2	-	2
Fighting Diabetes at the Workplace	4	-	4
National SME Innovation Scheme	18	-	18
Proof of Concept Scheme	5	-	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>124</b>

## Innovation Schemes as at 31st August 2019

Since the launch of new schemes focused on the new philosophy of risk sharing and commercialization of research outputs, the Council has funded 178 research and innovation projects, programmes and initiatives on a matching grant basis with the private sector. The private sector commitment amount to Rs 287 M out of a project value of Rs 457 M, with the MRIC contributing 170 M. The projects are being undertaken in areas such as Biotechnology, Construction, ICT, Waste Management and Life Sciences.

- **National SME Incubator Scheme:** Three (3) Incubators are currently accredited under the National SME Incubator Scheme and 131 incubatees have been supported. There are currently 18 ongoing projects (project value: 28.3 M; private sector contribution: 22.2 M; amount requested from MRIC: 6.09 M). The total project value since the start of the scheme is 108.6 M with the Council contributing a total of Rs 17.8 M and the Incubator/Incubatee partners putting a total sum of Rs 90.8 M.
- **Collaborative Research and Innovation Grant Scheme:** CRIGS supports research, development and collaboration between local companies and local research/academic institutions. Fifteen (15) projects are ongoing (project value: 97.58 M; private sector contribution: 57.92 M; amount requested from MRIC: 39.62 M). Twelve (12) projects have been completed (project value: 80.39 M; private sector contribution: 43.08 M; amount requested from MRIC: 37.3 M).
- **Research and Innovation Bridges:** The scheme was launched in December 2017 to support the creation of research and innovation bridges between Mauritius and Partner Countries allowing knowledge transfer and stimulation of innovation. Two (2) projects are ongoing (project value: 26 M; private sector contribution: 13 M; amount requested from MRIC: 13 M). Links have thus been created with three universities in Australia, South Africa, and UK.
- **Pole of Innovation Grant Scheme:** the scheme was initiated in November 2017. Two calls for proposals have been launched. Four (4) Poles of Innovation have been created (project value: 103 M; private sector contribution: 62 M; amount requested from MRIC: 33 M, funding from other sources: 8 M).
- The **Proof of Concept Scheme**, launched since February 2017, is designed to provide support for project proposals in areas where opportunities exist to develop innovative technology-based ideas for either new or improved industry-oriented products, processes or services that will enhance socio-economic benefits in the country. Three (3) projects have been approved and are ongoing (total project value: 5.19 M, private sector contribution: 2.76 M, MRIC contribution: 2.43 M). Four (4) projects have been completed (total project value: 6.03 M, private sector contribution: 2.12 M, MRIC contribution: 3.91 M).
- The **Social Innovation Research and Grant Scheme** prompts research institutions, NGOs, government bodies and the private sector, preferably in a networked form, to undertake socially innovative projects to address social issues for the greater good of Mauritian society as a whole thereby meeting the goals of a more inclusive, fairer and sustainable society high-end research and foster innovation. One (1) project has been completed (project value: 0.5 M; amount requested from MRIC: 0.5 M) and two (2) other projects have been approved and are ongoing (project value: 1.67 M; private sector contribution: 0.61 M; amount requested from MRIC: 1.06 M)
- **Fighting Diabetes at the Workplace (FDW) Pilot Programme** is a socially innovative matching grant scheme accompanied by a pilot programme which has been designed with the aim to incentivize interested large establishments to provide at workplace level, a comprehensive range of medical, educational and psychosocial support facilities to their employees to ensure systematic detection, follow-up and treatment of diabetic and pre-diabetic employees. Four companies/institutions have applied to the scheme and their programmes are currently under way: Omnicane, Mauritius Telecom, Mauritius Prison Services, Air Mauritius. Total project value is 25 M, with the Council contributing 10 M and the rest of 15 M coming from the companies/institutions. So far, 6745 employees have been screened for diabetes.

## Status on Implementation of Budget Measures

Extract of Budget Speech 2017-2018, Paragraph 32-35

32. We are fundamentally reviewing and restructuring the Mauritius Research Council to transform it into the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC). The Board of the MRIC will include wider representations of the private sector and relevant stakeholders.

33. It will manage a National Innovation and Research Fund to finance research in public and private institutions.

In line with the Budgetary Measure announced in the Budget Speech 2017-2018, the draft MRIC Bill was prepared and updated through discussions with relevant stakeholders. On the 7th May 2019, the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) Bill was voted in Parliament, thus paving the way to a more dynamic innovation ecosystem and allowing the MRIC to reorient its resources and expertise towards building collaborative and fruitful partnerships between the public and the private sector. The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019 came into force on the 1st of September 2019.

The MRIC Act 2019 also makes provision for the implementation of the National Research and Innovation Fund to be managed by the MRIC.

## Status of Implementation of Key Actions

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2019/2020	Achievement as at 31st August 2019
Promoting innovation through schemes	Number of approved innovative projects	15	35

## Other Internally Monitored KPIs

The Council has an internal set of Key Performance Indicators (as per list below) by which it assesses its performance and impact.

Related Performance Indicators	1st July 2019 – 31st August 2019 (2 months)	July 2018 – June 2019 (12 months)	July 2017 – June 2018 (12 months)
1 No. of new projects funded in priority areas	35	85	87
2 No. of projects monitored	150	262	192
3 No. of seminars/workshops held during the year	4	40	28
4 No. of projects with potential commercial utilization	55	106	55
5 Number of Incubatees supported	30	71	32
6 Number of accredited Incubators	3	3	6
7 Cumulative contribution from Private Sector and External Sources in research and innovation ongoing projects funded under part/matching grant schemes	Rs 269.1 M	Rs 183.5 M	Rs 105 M



PART IV:  
**FINANCIAL  
PERFORMANCE**

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2 months ended 31 August 2019, the Council received Government Grants amounting to Rs 10 M shown below:

	2 Months ending 31 August 2019 Rs (M)
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	10
Capital Expenditure:*	
Research and Innovative Projects	-
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	-
<i>Total Capital Expenditure</i>	-
<b>Gross Total</b>	<b>10</b>

\*Capital Expenditure was not received for the 2 remaining months of MRC as discussions were still on with our Parent Ministry and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development with respect to the allocation of funds for projects under the new MRIC.

The Recurrent Expenditure has been used towards personnel and administrative costs of the Council.



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REPORT OF THE  
**DIRECTOR OF AUDIT**

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**the Financial Statements  
the Mauritius Research Council  
the period ended 31 August 2019**

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**NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE**

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# NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Mauritius Research Council, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2019 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the period then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Mauritius Research Council as at 31 August 2019, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report. I am independent of the Mauritius Research Council in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Mauritius, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter

##### Repeal of the Mauritius Research Council Act

I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements in respect of the legal form and activities of the Mauritius Research Council.

Following the repeal of the Mauritius Research Council Act on 1 September 2019, no comparative figures would be seen in the accounts and all the assets and liabilities of the Mauritius Research Council have been transferred at book value to the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Key Audit Matters**

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

I have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in my report.

## **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the Mauritius Research Council, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Mauritius Research Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible of overseeing the Mauritius Research Council's financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Mauritius Research Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Mauritius Research Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Mauritius Research Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or, when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

### *Management's Responsibilities for Compliance*

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the Mauritius Research Council's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities*

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, I am also responsible to report to the Board whether:

- (a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
- (b) the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;
- (c) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, any expenditure incurred is of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;
- (d) in my opinion, the Mauritius Research Council has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations fairly and economically; and
- (e) the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process have been complied with.

I performed procedures, including the assessment of the risks of material non-compliance, to obtain audit evidence to discharge the above responsibilities.

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

### *Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act*

I have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.

As far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records:

- (a) the Mauritius Research Council has complied with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act; and
- (b) no direction relating to the accounts has been issued by the responsible Minister to the Mauritius Research Council.

Based on my examination of the records of Mauritius Research Council, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that:

- (a) expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence; and
- (b) the Council has not applied its resources and carried out its operations fairly and economically.

***Public Procurement Act***

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



**C. ROMOAH**  
Director of Audit

National Audit Office  
Level 14,  
Air Mauritius Centre  
PORT LOUIS

7 September 2022

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	2019 Rs
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	7	7,242,129
Receivables	6	1,645,769
		<u>8,887,898</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Receivables	6	10,221,112
Plant & Equipment	3	18,921,274
Intangible Asset	4	2,158,569
		<u>31,300,955</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>40,188,853</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	9	6,937,862
Employee Benefits within one year	9	1,796,834
Defined Benefit Obligation	5	527,532
		<u>9,262,228</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	9	724,583
Employee Benefits greater than one year	9	13,523,836
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b><u>23,510,647</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>16,678,206</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS/EQUITY</b>		
General Fund		16,054,303
Revaluation reserve		623,903
<b>Total Net Assets/Equity</b>		<b><u>16,678,206</u></b>

Approved by the Board of Directors on 02 August 2022.



**Dr K. Sukon**  
Chairperson



**Prof T. Bahorun**  
Executive Director



**Mr R. Bheekhoo**  
Council Member

**\*Note : Figures rounded to the nearest cents**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

		<b>2019</b>
		<b>2-Month period ended 31 August 2019</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Rs</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Recurrent Grant		10,332,006
Other		326,959
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>10,658,965</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative Expenses	<b>11</b>	7,518,507
Depreciation and Amortisation	<b>3 &amp; 4</b>	1,284,251
Research and Development Expenses	<b>10</b>	11,098,128
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>19,900,887</u>
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<u><u>(9,241,922)</u></u>



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	General Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs
<b>Balance at 1 July 2018</b>	<b>63,397,229</b>	<b>821,907</b>	<b>64,219,136</b>
Revaluation decrease on furniture & fittings	-	116,089	116,089
Revaluation decrease on Office Equipment	-	4,467	4,467
Revaluation decrease on ICT equipment	-	(68,304)	(68,304)
Revaluation decrease on Software	-	(100,192)	(100,192)
Actuarial Reserve transferred in	277,306	-	277,306
Surplus/Loss for the year	(32,677,964)	-	(32,677,964)
Adjustment and correction during 2018-2019	(4,546,106)	-	(4,546,106)
Remeasurement	(570,462)	-	(570,462)
<b>Balance at 01 July 2019</b>	<b>25,880,002</b>	<b>773,967</b>	<b>26,653,969</b>
<b>Changes in Net Assets/Equity for the period</b>			
Revaluation decrease on furniture & fittings	-	53,325	53,325
Revaluation decrease on ICT equipment	-	(199,766)	(199,766)
Prior year Adjustment of depreciation and Gratuity/Annual Leave	606,941	(3,623)	603,318
Loss for the period	(9,241,922)	-	(9,241,922)
Remeasurement	(1,190,718)	-	(1,190,718)
<b>Balance at 31 August 2019</b>	<b>16,054,303</b>	<b>623,903</b>	<b>16,678,206</b>



## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Loss/Surplus for the year	(9,241,922)
Non-cash movements:	
Depreciation and amortisation	1,284,251
Decrease in other payables	(1,979,788)
Increase in Vacation Leave	941,783
Decrease in Passage Benefits	(252,639)
Increase in Sick Leave,	751,445
Decrease/(Increase in pension asset)	(39,114)
Decrease in receivables	347,872
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>(8,188,111)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Purchase of intangible asset	(126,371)
Purchase of Furniture and fittings	(19,982)
<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(146,353)</b>
<b>Net increase/Decrease in cash and cash equivalent</b>	<b>(8,334,464)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of 2-month period</b>	<b>15,576,594</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of 2-month period</b>	<b>7,242,129</b>

### Notes to the Cash flow Statement Differences

#### a) Cash and cash equivalent

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and balance with bank. Cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprised the following statement of financial position amounts.

Cash at bank	7,236,465
Cash balance	5,663
	<u>7,242,129</u>

The entity has no undrawn borrowing facilities.

#### b) Plant & Equipment

Plant and Equipment are acquired by means of capital grants from the Government. During the period, the aggregate cost of acquisitions was Rs 19,982.

## STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNT FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Original budget Rs	As per FS Rs	Reasons
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Compensation of Employees</b>	<b>3,992,299</b>	<b>5,735,397</b>	
Personal Emoluments	3,672,677	5,417,126	Increase in provision for vacation leave, passage benefits
IPSAS 25 adjustment	-	(39,114)	As per IPSAS report submitted by Sicom
Other Staff Costs	319,622	357,385	
<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>2,363,429</b>	<b>1,783,111</b>	
<b>Cost of Utilities</b>	<b>1,265,351</b>	<b>1,542,566</b>	
Fuel and Oil (Motorvehicle expenses)	106,970	223,250	
Rent	967,460	998,997	
Electricity	92,663	135,904	
Telephone	98,258	184,415	
<b>Office Equipment and Furniture</b>	<b>1,037,105</b>	<b>121,170</b>	
Office and other miscellaneous Expenses	932,492	(87,945)	Costs in connection with office and miscellaneous expenses have decreased as the Council has attempted to reduce its costs
Maintenance Agreement	6,945	(25,602)	
Cleaning Services	47,118	48,179	
Publications and Stationery	50,550	185,788	Cost incurred for printing of Annual Report 2018-2019
Advertising	-	750	
<b>Other Goods and Services</b>	<b>60,973</b>	<b>119,375</b>	
Board & Committees	60,973	118,175	Payment of Council/HRC/Finance/PMC/RDWG
Legal & Professional Services	-	1,200	
<b>R &amp; D</b>	<b>10,496,720</b>	<b>11,098,128</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>16,852,448</b>	<b>18,616,636</b>	

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECONCILIATION OF ACTUAL CASHFLOWS WITH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Original Budget	Actual	Accruals 30/6/19	Accruals 31/8/19	Prepayment 30/6/19	Prepayment 31/8/19	As per FS
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
Recurrent Grant	10,332,006	10,332,006	-	-	-	-	10,332,006
Other Revenue	-	326,959	-	-	-	-	326,959
<b>Total Receipts</b>	10,332,006	10,658,965	-	-	-	-	10,658,965
<b>PAYMENTS</b>							
<b>Compensation of Employees</b>	<b>3,992,299</b>	<b>5,735,397</b>	<b>48,592</b>	<b>55,125</b>	-	-	<b>5,728,864</b>
Personal Emoluments	3,672,677	5,417,126	48,592	-	-	-	5,465,718
IPSAS 25 adjustment	-	(39,114)	-	-	-	-	(39,114)
Other Staff Costs	319,622	357,385	-	55,125	-	-	302,260
<b>Goods and Services</b>	<b>2,363,429</b>	<b>1,783,111</b>	<b>603,112</b>	<b>467,830</b>	<b>1,239,547</b>	<b>1,420,198</b>	<b>2,099,043</b>
Cost of Utilities	<b>1,265,351</b>	<b>1,542,566</b>	<b>232,929</b>	<b>262,651</b>	<b>1,197,111</b>	<b>1,179,716</b>	<b>1,495,450</b>
Fuel and Oil (Motorvehicle expenses)	106,970	223,250	79,459	54,003	-	-	248,706
Rent	967,460	998,997	-	-	1,179,716	1,179,716	998,997
Electricity	92,663	135,904	41,390	91,852	-	-	85,443
Telephone	98,258	184,415	112,080	116,796	17,395	-	162,304
<b>Office Equipment and Furniture</b>	<b>1,037,105</b>	<b>121,170</b>	<b>271,308</b>	<b>142,179</b>	<b>42,436</b>	<b>240,481</b>	<b>448,343</b>
Office Expenses and Incidentals	932,492	(87,945)	7,220	66,413	13,484	77,922	(82,700)
Maintenance Agreement	6,945	(25,602)	-	8,453	3,604	153,609	115,951
Cleaning Services	47,118	48,179	23,748	47,521	-	-	24,406
Publications and Stationery	50,550	185,788	240,340	19,793	25,349	8,950	389,936
Advertising	-	750	-	-	-	-	750
<b>Other Goods and Services</b>	<b>60,973</b>	<b>119,375</b>	<b>98,875</b>	<b>63,000</b>	-	-	<b>155,250</b>
Board & Committees	60,973	118,175	72,675	63,000	-	-	127,850
Legal & Professional Services	-	1,200	26,200	-	-	-	27,400
<b>R &amp; D</b>	<b>10,496,720</b>	<b>11,098,128</b>	<b>597,534</b>	<b>425,136</b>	<b>624,725</b>	<b>142,927</b>	<b>10,788,728</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>16,852,448</b>	<b>18,616,636</b>	<b>5,067,782</b>	<b>948,091</b>	<b>2,647,481</b>	<b>1,563,125</b>	<b>18,616,636</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### 1. (I) LEGAL FORM AND ACTIVITIES

The Mauritius Research Council is an organization established under the Mauritius Research Council Act 1992 (Act No. 10 of 1992) and its principal place of business is Level 6 Ebene Heights, 34 Cybercity, Ebene. The Council is engaged in the following activities:

- (a) To foster, promote and coordinate research and development in all spheres of scientific, technological, social and economic activities;
- (b) To advise the Government on all matters concerning scientific and technological policies;
- (c) To lay guidelines for, and initiate the formulation of research and development policies on a national basis; and
- (d) To encourage commercial utilisation of research and development results in the national interest.

(II) It is to be noted that the MRC Act was repealed on the 1st of September 2019 following the proclamation of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019. Same would have an implication on the preparation of Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2019-2020 since accounts will have to be prepared on a 2- month basis and 10-month basis respectively. As such no comparative figures would be seen in the accounts.

(III) Following the proclamation of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019, all the assets and liabilities of the Mauritius Research Council have been transferred at book value to the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council. Same applies to the employees of the MRC that have been transferred to the MRIC after the MRC Act was repealed and MRIC Act proclaimed.

### 2. Adoption of New and Revised International Accounting

#### 2.1 Standards Adopted in the current period

The Council has adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS I) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) as from the year 2011 in line with amendments made in the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

#### 2.2. Standards issued to IPSAS but not yet effective.

The amendments are not expected to have any impact on the MRC'S operation and financial statements.

At the date of authorization of these financial statements, the following International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) had already been issued but not yet effective as at 31 Aug 2019:

Amendments to IPSAS 1 - Presentation of Financial statements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 17 - Property, Plant and Equipment - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 28 - Financial Instruments Presentation - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 31 - Intangible Assets - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015

IPSAS 33 First -Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017

IPSAS 34 - Separate Financial Statements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017

IPSAS 35 - Consolidated Financial Statements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017

IPSAS 36 - Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017

IPSAS 37 - Joint Arrangements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

IPSAS 38 - Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017  
IPSAS 39 - Employee Benefit replaces IPSAS 25 as of 1 January 2018 - The main changes from IPSAS 25 are: Removal of an option that allows an entity to defer the recognition of changes in the net defined benefit liability (the "corridor approach"); introduction of the net interest approach for defined benefit plans; Amendments regarding certain disclosure requirements for defined benefit plans and multi-employer plans; simplification of the requirements for contributions from employees or third parties to a defined benefit plan when those contributions are applied to a simple contributory plan that is linked to service; and removal of the requirements for composite social security programmes.

The Council anticipates that the adoption of these Standards in the future periods will have no material impact on the Financial Statement.

### 2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Mauritius Research Council and which have been applied consistently are set out below:

#### **(a) Basis of Preparation**

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The statements comply with the requirements of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The measurement base applied is historical cost adjusted for revaluation of assets.

Government in its budget speech 2017/2018 has provided credence to this need for change by announcing the budgetary measure whereby the MRC is being transformed into the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).

#### **(b) Revenue Recognition**

Income is based as per IPSAS 23 where revenue has been classified as revenue from non-exchange transactions.

#### **IPSAS 23 Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions**

The objective of IPSAS 23 is to prescribe requirements for the financial reporting of revenue arising from non-exchange transactions, other than non-exchange transactions that give rise to an entity combination. This standard deals with issues that need to be considered in recognising and measuring revenue from non-exchange transactions, including the identification of contributions from owners.

Grants are recognised as revenue to the extent that the entity has satisfied the conditions attaching to the grant. Upon expiry of the transitional period of three years following the date of the first adoption of this standard, any unamortised portion of the grant should be recognised retrospectively against accumulated surplus either by restating the comparative information, or by means of an adjustment against opening accumulated surplus in the reporting period in which IPSAS 23 is fully complied with for the first time.

In accordance with IPSAS 23, Capital Grants are recognised as Revenue.

#### **(c) Comparative Figures**

Comparative figures have been regrouped or restated, where necessary, to conform to IPSAS presentation. However, since the accounts have been prepared in a 2-month period and 10-month period basis respectively, same cannot be entirely compared to previous accounts.

#### **(d) Operating Lease**

Rentals payable under operating lease agreements are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Operating Leases are leases and assets, the ownership of which are retained by the lessor.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### e (i) Property, Plant & Equipment

Plant and Equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets on a straight-line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned as follows:

Motor Vehicles	-	5/7 years
Furniture & Fittings	-	10 years
Office Equipment	-	7 years
ICT Equipment	-	4 years
Laboratory Equipment	-	7 Years

Purchase of non-current assets below the threshold of Rs 15,000 is written off during the year.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognized in the Statement of Financial Performance.

### e(ii) Depreciation Policy

It is the policy of the Council to charge full year depreciation on asset on the year of acquisition.

In the year of disposal, no depreciation is charged.

### (f) Intangible Assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Internally generated intangible assets, excluding capitalised development costs, are not capitalised and expenditure is reflected in the income statement in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

Computer software that is not considered to form part of any hardware equipment is recorded as intangible assets. They are capitalised at cost and amortised over its estimated useful life of four years.

### (g) Research and development costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. An intangible asset arising from development expenditure on an individual project is recognised only when the Council can demonstrate the technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale, its intention to complete and its ability to use or sell the asset, how the asset will generate future economic benefits, the availability of resources to complete the asset and the ability to measure reliably the expenditure during the development.

During the period of development, the asset is tested for impairment annually. Following the initial recognition of the development expenditure, the cost model is applied requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation of the asset begins when development is complete and the asset is available for use. It is amortised over the period of expected future sales. During the period of which the asset is not yet in use, it is tested for impairment annually.

### (h) Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable are stated at their nominal value as reduced by appropriate allowances on estimated irrecoverable amounts.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### **(i) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and Cash Equivalents comprise cash at bank and cash in hand.

### **(j) Accounts Payable**

Accounts Payable are stated at their fair value.

### **(k) Retirement and other Benefits**

#### *Defined Benefit Pension Plan*

The Council subscribes to a defined benefit plan, the assets of which are held in a separately administered fund. The pension costs are assessed using the projected unit credit method. The cost of providing pensions is charged to the Income Statements so as to spread the regular cost over the service lives of employees in accordance with the advice of the actuaries. The pension obligation is measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows using a discounted rate by reference to the current interest rates and the yields on bonds and treasury bills.

#### *Employee Passage Benefit Entitlement*

Employee entitlements to passage benefit allowance are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability up to the balance sheet date.

#### *Employee leave entitlement*

Employee entitlements to bank sick leave as defined in the PRB 2008 Report (the regulatory body for remuneration of MRIC employees) are recognized as and when they accrue to employees. An accrual is made for the estimated liability for bank sick leave.

#### *Vacation leave*

Vacation leave has been computed for all permanent and pensionable staff. Provision in respect of vacation leave has been accrued for only those staff reaching the age of 55 years.

### **(l) Provisions**

Provisions are recognized when the Council has a present obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that the Council will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are measured at the Council's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the balance sheet date, and are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

### **(m) Impairment**

At each balance sheet date, the Council reviews the carrying amount of its tangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount.

### **(n) Risk Management Policies**

A description of the various risks to which the Council is exposed is shown below as well as the approach taken by management to control and mitigate those risks.

#### *Liquidity risk*

This refers to the possibility of default by the Council to meet its obligations because of the unavailability of funds to meet both operational and capital requirements. In order to ensure adequacy of its funding, cash flow forecasts are prepared regularly and actions are taken accordingly.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### *Credit risk*

Credit risk relates to the possibility of default by employees in settling their loan obligations towards the Council. The Council has established a "lien" policy on cars purchased by those employees who benefit from such car loans.

### **(o) Financial Instruments**

Financial assets and liabilities are recognized on the balance sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

The Council's accounting policies in respect of the applicable financial instruments are as follows:

#### *Receivables*

Receivables are stated at their nominal value as reduced by appropriate allowances for irrecoverable amounts.

#### *Cash and Cash Equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash at bank and in hand, and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### *Other Payables*

Other payables are stated at their nominal value.

### **(p) Accounting Judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of Financial Statements in accordance with IPSAS requires the directors and management to exercise judgment in the process of applying the accounting policies. It also requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. Judgments and estimates are continuously evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations and assumptions concerning future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The actual results could by definition therefore, often differ from the related accounting estimates.

Where applicable, the notes to the Financial Statements set out areas where management has applied a higher degree of judgment that have a significant effect on the amounts recognized in the Financial Statements, or estimations and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date include Retirement Benefit Obligations.

#### *Retirement Benefit Obligations*

The cost of defined benefit pension plans is determined using actuarial valuations. The actuarial valuation involved making assumptions about discount rates, expected rates of return on assets, future salary increases, mortality rates and future pension increases. Due to the long-term nature of these plans, such estimates are subject to significant uncertainty.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### (q) Revaluation

It is the policy of the Council to revalue items of plant and equipment which have been fully depreciated but are still in use.

Each class of asset is revalued following the number of years when they are fully depreciated:-

Furniture and fittings - 10 years

Office equipment - 7 years

ICT equipment - 4 years

Laboratory Equipment - 7 Years

The effective date of revaluation is 30 June 2019.

A revaluation committee was set up since external valuers were not deemed to be cost effective. The Council's revaluation is based on a percentage rate applied to the original cost of the asset, depending on the useful remaining life of the asset.

Furniture & Fittings - 30%

Office Equipment - 20%

ICT Equipment - 10%

Under IPSAS 17 'Property, Plant and Equipment' revaluation increases shall be credited directly to revaluation surplus. However the increase shall be recognised as revenue in surplus or deficit to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same class of assets previously recognised as an expense in surplus or deficit.. Revaluation decreases are debited first against the revaluation surplus related to the same class of assets and any excess against surplus or deficit. When the revalued asset is disposed of, the revaluation surplus is transferred directly to accumulated surplus of deficits and is not recycled through surplus or deficit.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

## 3. PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT

	MOTOR VEHICLES	FURNITURE & FITTINGS	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	ICT EQUIPMENT	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	TOTAL
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
<b>COST</b>						
<b>As at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>5,865,148</b>	<b>1,107,980</b>	<b>2,101,826</b>	<b>5,068,542</b>	<b>27,851,579</b>	<b>41,995,075</b>
Revaluation Adjustment	-	(124,432)	-	(26,082)	-	(150,514)
Additions	-	19,982	-	-	-	19,982
Write-offs	-	-	-	(11,911)	-	(11,911)
<b>As at 31 August 2019</b>	<b>5,865,148</b>	<b>1,003,530</b>	<b>2,101,826</b>	<b>5,030,549</b>	<b>27,851,579</b>	<b>41,852,632</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>						
<b>As at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>3,798,216</b>	<b>589,930</b>	<b>825,975</b>	<b>1,733,550</b>	<b>14,886,708</b>	<b>21,834,379</b>
Depreciation on revalued asset	-	(177,757)	-	175,818	-	(1,939)
Write-offs	-	-	-	(14,045)	-	(14,045)
Charge for the period	173,709	15,837	49,894	209,728	663,796	1,112,964
<b>As at 31 August 2019</b>	<b>3,971,925</b>	<b>428,010</b>	<b>875,869</b>	<b>2,105,051</b>	<b>15,550,504</b>	<b>22,931,359</b>
<b>CARRYING AMOUNT</b>						
As at 31 Aug 2019	1,893,223	575,520	1,225,957	2,925,498	12,301,075	18,921,273
As at 30 June 2019	2,066,932	518,050	1,275,851	3,334,992	12,964,871	20,160,694

## 4. INTANGIBLE ASSET

	COMPUTER SOFTWARE
	Rs
<b>COST</b>	
<b>As at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>3,984,523</b>
Additions	126,371
Revaluation	-
Write off	-
<b>As at 31 August 2019</b>	<b>4,110,894</b>
<b>AMORTISATION</b>	
<b>As at 1 July 2019</b>	1,781,040
Write Offs	-
Revaluation	-
Amortisation for the period	171,287
<b>As at 31 August 2019</b>	<b>1,952,327</b>
<b>CARRYING AMOUNT</b>	
As at 30 June 2019	2,158,567
As at 30 June 2018	2,203,483

## 5A. PENSION ASSET

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>Amounts recognised in balance sheet at end of period:</b>	
Defined Benefit Obligation	40,624,916
Fair value of plan assets	(40,097,384)
<b>Liability recognised in balance sheet at end of period</b>	<b>527,532</b>
<b>Amounts recognised in income statement:</b>	
Service Cost:	
Current service cost	312,995
(Employee Contributions)	(116,178)
Fund expenses	5,135
Net Interest Revenue	(8,728)
<b>Statement of Financial Performance Charge</b>	<b>193,224</b>
<b>Remeasurement</b>	
Liability Gain	(1,088,914)
Asset Loss	2,279,632
Net Asset/Equity (NAE)	<b>1,190,718</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,383,942</b>
<b>Movements in liability recognised in balance sheet :</b>	
At start of the period	(624,072)
Amount recognised in the statement of Financial Performance (Contributions paid by employer)	193,224 (232,338)
Amount recognised in NAE	1,190,718
<b>At end of the period</b>	<b>527,532</b>
<b>Actual return on plan assets :</b>	
<b>Main actuarial assumptions at end of the period:</b>	
Discount rate	6.74%
Future salary increases	4.00%
Future pension increases	3.00%
<b>No. of members</b>	<b>41</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

## 5B. PENSION ASSET

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation</b>	
Present value of obligation at start of period	40,978,071
Current service cost	312,995
Interest Cost	460,320
(Benefits paid)	(37,556)
Liability Gain	(1,088,914)
	<b>40,624,916</b>
<b>Present value of obligation at end of period</b>	
<b>Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets</b>	
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	41,602,143
Expected return on plan assets	469,048
Employer contributions	232,338
Employee contributions	116,178
(Benefits paid + other outgo)	(42,691)
Asset Loss	(2,279,632)
	<b>40,097,384</b>
<b>Fair value of plan assets at end of period</b>	
<b>Distribution of plan assets at end of period</b>	
Percentage of assets at end of the period	Aug-19
Fixed Interest Securities and Cash	58.70%
Loans	3.40%
Local equities	13.10%
Overseas bonds and equities	24.20%
Property	0.60%
Total	100%
<b>Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity</b>	
Percentage of assets at end of year	2019 (%)
Assets held in the entity's own financial instruments	-
Property occupied by the entity	-
Other assets used by the entity	-
<b>Components of the amount recognised in OCI</b>	
Year	<b>2019</b>
Currency	<b>Rs</b>
Asset experience gain during the period	40,624,916
Liability experience loss during the period	(40,097,384)
Surplus	527,532
Asset experience loss during the period	(2,279,632)
Liability experience gain during the period	1,088,914
	<b>(1,190,718)</b>
Year	<b>2020/2021</b>
Expected Employer Contributions	1,456,765

Retirement benefit obligations have been based on a report from SICOM Ltd received on 05 November, the expected average remaining working lives of the employees participating in the plan is **17 years**.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### 6. OTHER RECEIVABLES

Other receivables are stated at their nominal value as reduced by

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>Receivables within one year</b>	
Prepayments	864,962
Short Term Car Loan	435,000
Accounts receivable	345,806
	<u>1,645,768</u>
<b>Receivables after one year</b>	
Payment to Clyde Space Ltd for Satellite	7,316,279
Prepayments more than one year	276,431
Payment to Harel Mallac for DMS	672,101
Deposit	1,231,716
Car Loan	724,583
	<u>10,221,110</u>
Total	<u>11,866,879</u>

The staff loans bear interest at the rate of 4.5% p.a. and is repayable over a period of 5 or 7 years.

### 7. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Bank Balances	7,236,465
Cash Balance	5,663
	<u>7,242,129</u>

Bank and Cash Balances comprise cash held by the Council. The carrying amount of these approximates their fair values.

### 8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employee benefits represent provision for sick leave, vacation leave, annual leave, passage benefits and gratuity.

Employee entitlements to bank sick leave as defined in the PRB 2016 Report (the regulatory body for determining remuneration of MRC employees) are recognised when they accrue to employees. An accrual amount of Rs 5,714,907 (2017/18: Rs 5,295,810) is made for the estimated liability for bank sick leave.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

This year the accumulated balance under these items are detailed as below:

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	
Passage Benefits	2,474,017
Vacation Leave	5,691,158
Sick Leave	5,714,907
Gratuity and Annual Leave	-
	<u>13,880,083</u>
<b>Provision for the year</b>	
Passage Benefits	103,608
Vacation Leave	941,783
Sick Leave	751,445
Gratuity and Annual Leave	-
	<u>1,796,836</u>
<b>Paid to staff</b>	
Passage Benefits	356,247
Vacation Leave	-
Sick Leave	-
Gratuity	-
Annual Leave	-
	<u>356,247</u>
<b>Balance as at 31 August 2019</b>	
Passage Benefits	2,221,379
Vacation Leave	6,632,941
Sick Leave	6,466,352
Gratuity and Annual Leave	-
	<u>15,320,672</u>
These obligations are payable as follows:	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Payable within one year	1,796,836
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>	
Payable after one year	13,523,836
	<u><u>15,320,672</u></u>

## 9. OTHER PAYABLES

Other payables are stated at their nominal value.

### Payable within one year

	2019 Rs
Accruals and provisions	6,502,864
Provision for Employee Benefits	1,796,836
Loan from Accountant General	435,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,734,700</b>

### Payable after one year

Provision Employee Benefits	13,523,836
Loan from Accountant General	724,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,248,419</b>

## 10. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES

	2019 2-Month period ended 31 August 2019 Rs
Policy and Strategic Planning	4,171,328
Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property	1,155,900
Local, Regional and International Cooperation	1,648,422
Entrepreneurship and Emerging Sectors	3,702,706
Social Innovation and Applied Research	475,135
Information and Communication Services	(55,363)
	<b>11,098,128</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### 11. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>2-Month period ended 31 August 2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	
Salaries & Other related costs	5,417,126
Provision for IPSAS 25	(39,114)
Travelling & Transport	290,260
Training	67,125
	<u>5,735,397</u>
<b>Office Expenses</b>	
Motor Expenses	223,250
Printing, Postage & Stationery	141,978
Advertising & Publicity Fees	750
Telephone & Fax	184,415
Maintenance Contract	(25,602)
Documentation & Subscriptions	43,810
Office Expenses & Incidentals	86,949
	<u>655,550</u>
<b>Building Facilities</b>	
Rent and parking	998,997
Cleaning	48,179
Electricity & Water Charges	135,904
Insurance	(174,894)
	<u>1,008,185</u>
<b>Advisory &amp; Professional</b>	
Legal & Professional Fees	1,200
Board Membership & Committee Fees	118,175
	<u>119,375</u>
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<u><u><b>7,518,507</b></u></u>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### 12. LOSS FOR THE YEAR

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>2-Month period ended 31 August 2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
The loss for the year has been arrived at after charging/(crediting):	9,241,922
Research and Development Expenses	11,098,128
Staff Costs	5,417,126
Depreciation and amortisation	1,284,251

### 13. STAFF COSTS

Average number of employees	52
Aggregate remuneration comprised:	
Salaries	5,417,126
Other Costs	357,385
	<u>5,774,511</u>

### 14. OTHER CHARGES

Interest paid to Accountant General under Car Loans	<u>10,675</u>
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The above interest has not been recognised in the accounts of the Council as it represents interest on car loans contracted by the employees, payable to the Accountant General.

### 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The immediate and ultimate controlling party of the Council is the Government of Mauritius. The Council has no related party transactions.

### 16. REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Senior Management staff remuneration for 31 August 2019 are as follows:

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>2-Month period ended 31 August 2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
Officer-in-charge - Emoluments and Other Benefits	238,898
Emoluments and Other Benefits of Head of Divisions	1,327,056
Chairman Fees	59,850
	<u>1,625,804</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 2-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### 17. COMMITMENTS

As at 31 August 2019, the Council has a commitment of Rs 84.9 M towards 155 ongoing research projects whereas as at 30 June 2019 the Council had a commitment of Rs 87 M towards 334 ongoing research projects.

### 18. OPERATING LEASES

The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

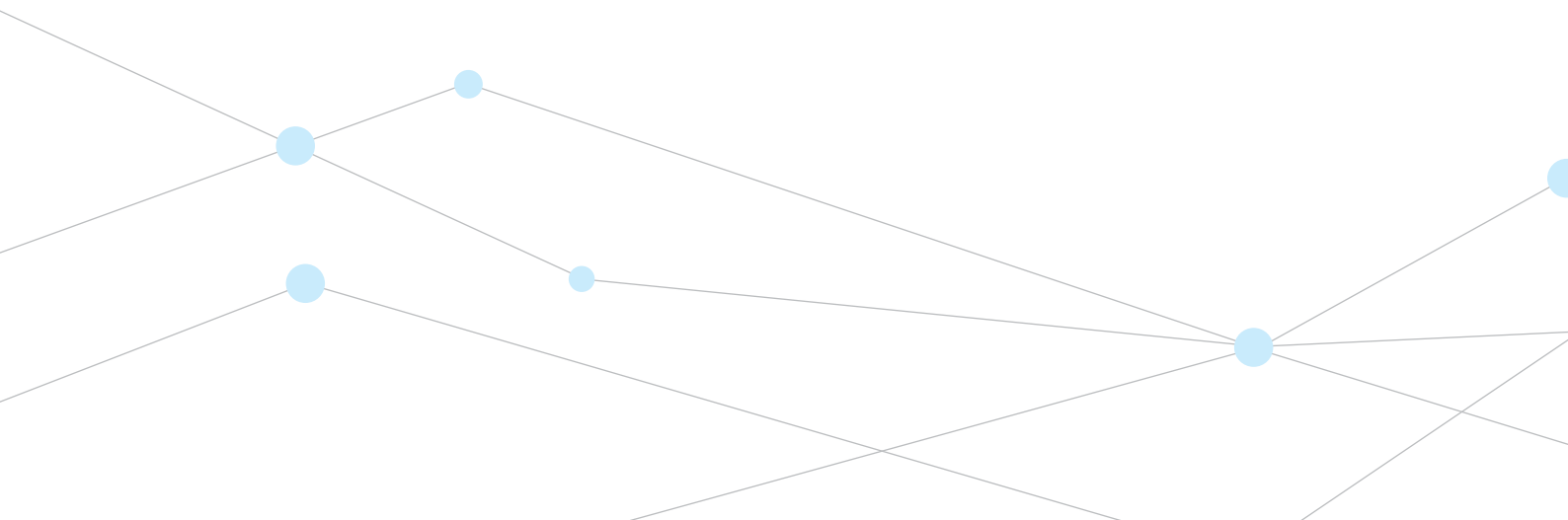
	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Rs</b>
Upto 1 year	967,461
After 1 year and before 5 years	1,451,190
	<u>2,418,651</u>

General Operating Lease Description - Office Rental:

Lessor	National Pension Fund
Area of Premises	900 square metres
Lease Period	5 years
Lease Commencement date	1st October 2015
Lease Termination date	30th September 2020
Rental	Rs 537.60 per square metre per month inclusive of common area charges, 9 parking bays and VAT
Deposit	Rs 1,162,512

### 19. LAND AT REDUIT TRIANGLE

During the year 2010 a plot of land of 1 Arpent at Reduit Triangle has been officially vested in the Prime Minister's Office for the use by the Mauritius Research Council for the construction of an office block.





PART V:  
**WAY FORWARD**

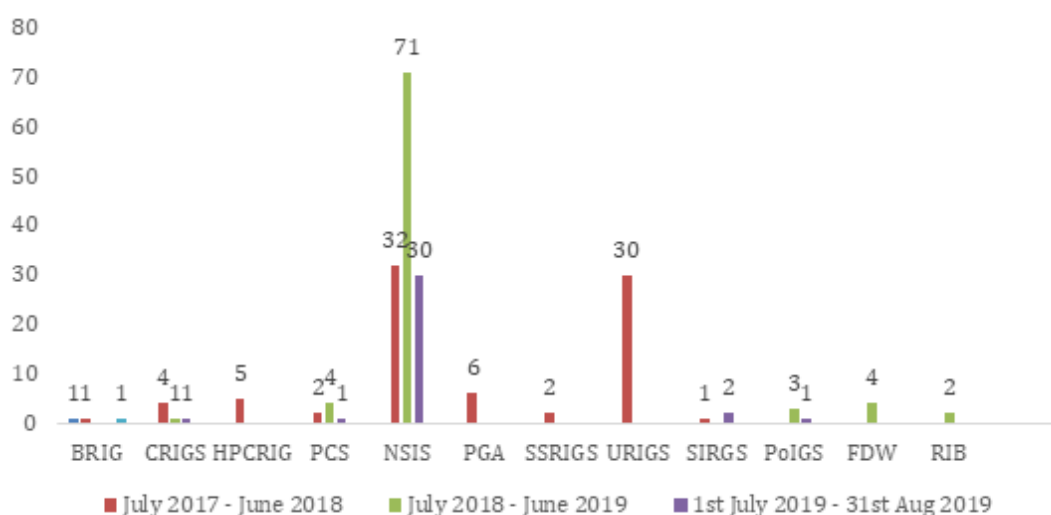
## Trends

The financial year 2018-2019 saw the successful implementation of new matching grant schemes, with increased private sector investor in research and innovation. The financial year 2019-2020 saw the successful continuation of the implementation of the first two (2) projects under the Research and Innovation Bridges (RIB), three (3) poles of innovation under the Pole of Innovation Grant Scheme (PoIGS) and four (4) programmes under the Fighting Diabetes at the Workplace which were approved and started during the year 2018-2019, along with other projects and initiatives being implemented under the other MRIC schemes such as Collaborative Research and Innovation Grant Scheme (CRIGS), Proof of Concept Scheme (PCS), National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS) and Social Innovation Research Grant Scheme (SIRGS).

With regards to new projects which started during the period 2018-2019, the following trends were observed.

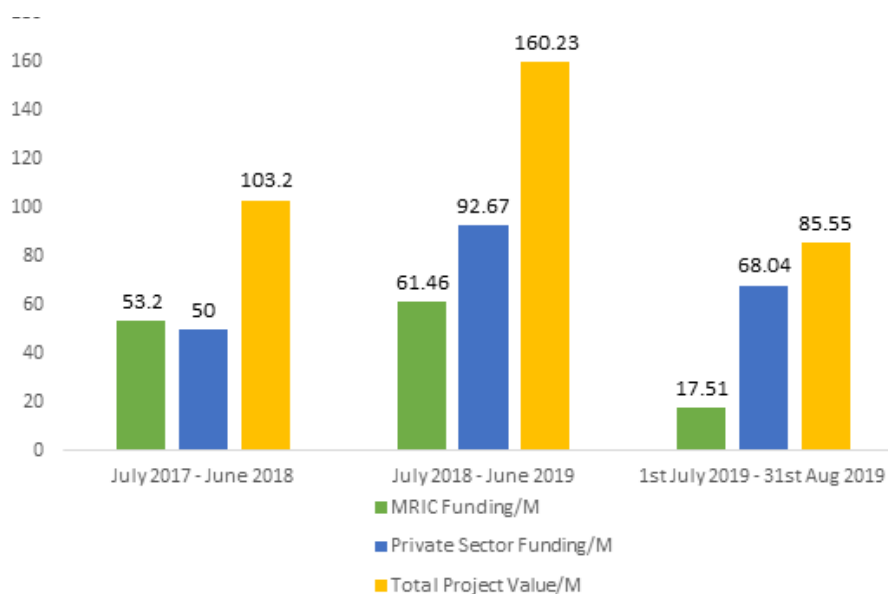
- For the year 2018-2019, there were 85 new projects/programmes/initiatives.
- For the period 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019, there were 35 new projects/programmes/initiatives.

Chart 4: Number of new projects by scheme and year



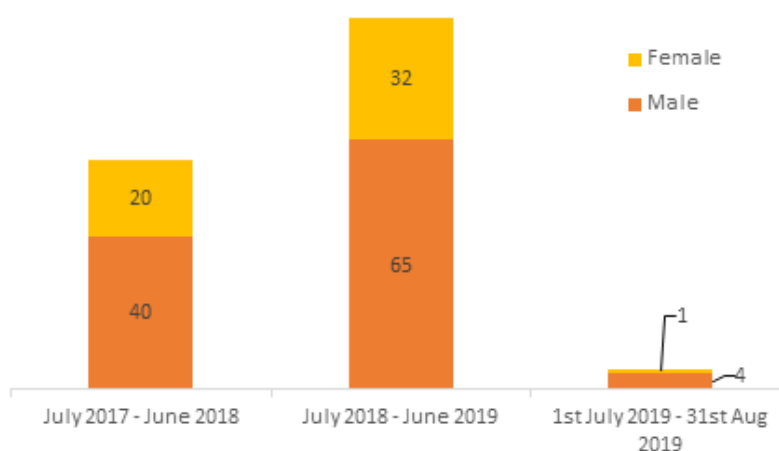
For 2017-2018, the total Project Value of the 87 new projects started were Rs 103.2 million, with the MRC funding consisting of Rs 53.2 million and the Private Sector commitment amounting to Rs 50 million for projects under the Research and Commercialisation Schemes. For 2018-2019, the total Project Value of the 85 new projects/initiatives started were Rs 160.3 million, with the MRC funding consisting of Rs 61.46 million and the Private Sector commitment amounting to Rs 92.67 million for projects under the Research and Commercialisation Schemes. For the period 1st July 2019-31st August 2019, the total Project Value of the 35 new projects/programmes/initiatives started were Rs 85.88 million, with the MRC funding consisting of Rs 17.51 million and the Private Sector commitment amounting to Rs 68.04 million.

Chart 5: Funding of new projects (2017-2019)



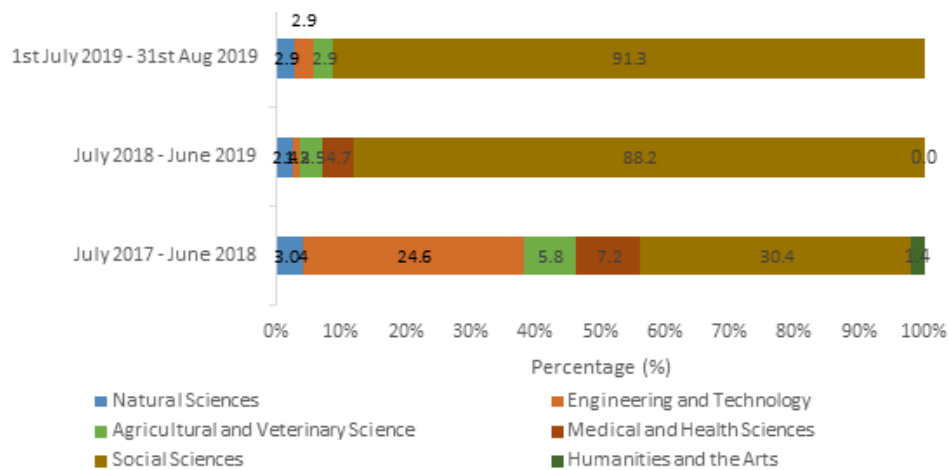
New projects for the financial years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and the period 1st July 2019-31st August 2019 were analysed based on the gender of project leaders. The percentage of female-led projects was 33.3%, 33.0% and 20.0%, respectively while those spearheaded by male Project Leaders/Principal Investigators was 66.6%, 66.0% and 80.0%, respectively.

Chart 6: Gender distribution of new projects (2017-2019)



As from the financial year 2016-2017, new projects are categorized as per the Frascati Manual 2015. There was no major change in the distribution between the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The Social Sciences classification accounted for 30.4% of new projects for 2017-2018, owing mostly to projects under the phased out schemes: Unsolicited Research and Innovation Grant Scheme (URIGS) and the Small Scale Research and Innovation Grant Scheme (SSRIGS). For 2018-2019, Social Sciences accounted for the largest percentage of projects, 88.2%, due to the 71 initiatives under the National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS). For the period 1st July 2019-31st August 2019, again, Social Sciences accounted for the largest percentage of projects, 91.3%, due to the 30 initiatives under the National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS).

Chart 7: New Projects (2017-2019) Classified as per Frascati Manual 2015



## Strategic Direction 2019-2021

The Council is in the process of developing its Strategic Plan in line with the roles and functions of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019 as well as the strategies laid out in the National Innovation Framework 2018-2030. The draft Strategic Plan approved by the Board of the Council focused on the following strategies:

- To develop relevant innovation policies and strategies to facilitate the transformation of Mauritius into an innovation-driven economy
- To encourage knowledge creation, transformation, management and dissemination for commercialisation
- To contribute towards the development of an entrepreneurial culture
- To promote emerging sectors
- To promote Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer for innovation
- To facilitate citizen engagement and promote social innovation to address societal issues
- To engage in a process of internationalisation through developing Regional and International Cooperation
- To strengthen the organisational support to achieve MRC's goals



# ANNEXES



## Annex I – List of new funded projects and programmes which started during the period 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019

Ref No.	Title	Scheme	Type	Broad Classification	Main Applicant (Local company / Institution)	Collaborating Institution / Company	MRIC Funding	Private Sector Contribution	Project Value
1	CRIGS-A30 Product Enhancement and Product Development Based on Morinda citrifolia	CRIGS	Project	Natural Sciences	Nonico Co. Ltd	UoM	715,000	715,000	1,430,000
2	MRC/PCS-1901 Incorporating Cover Crops ("Plantés de Service - PdS") for Organic Sugarcane Production	PCS	Project	Agricultural and veterinary sciences	Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture	MSRI, Alteo Agri Ltd, Terragri	1,000,000	590,000	1,590,000
3	PoIGS-1901 UoM/MRIC Pole of Innovation: Agriculture-Sustainable Materials for Composite Materials	PoIGS	Programme	Engineering and Technology	UoM	FAREI; Nelson Mandela University, South Africa; Nabridas; EFOI	8,775,000	11,672,435	20,447,435
4	SIRGS-1901 Sustainability and long term environmental conservation through 'ERA crafts'	SIRGS	Project	Social Sciences	Ecosystem Restoration Alliance Indian Ocean		780,500	327,500	1,108,000
5	SIRGS-1902 Research on long-term holistic accompaniment of families living in poverty in the Republic of Mauritius	SIRGS	Project	Social Sciences	Lovebridge		280,000	280,000	560,000

## Annex II - List of new incubatees supported from 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019 through the National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS)

	Title of project	Collaborating Accredited Incubator	Phase	Funding by MRC	Funding provided by Incubator/ Incubatee	Project Value
1	Vite Software Ltd	Verde Ventures Ltd	Incubation	400,000	430,000	830,000
2	Beezsuite	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
3	Chabot- for small business management	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
4	MyPocket CFO/ Le Fintech Ltd (Chatbot for SMEs)	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	1,894,096	2,294,096
5	CoderDodo Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	50,000	100,375	150,375
6	DOU	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
7	Ikes PROD LTD	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
8	Ikes PROD LTD	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	1,566,796	1,966,796
9	J2R Innovation Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
10	Konek Twa	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
11	Konek Twa	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	992,796	1,392,796
12	Lean Search Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
13	Lean Search Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	2,296,096	2,696,096
14	Lizie Maurice	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
15	Navboy Technologies Limited (Lizie Maurice)	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	1,992,041	2,392,041

## Annex II - List of new incubatees supported from 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019 through the National SME Incubator Scheme (NSIS)

	Title of project	Collaborating Accredited Incubator	Phase	Funding by MRIC	Funding provided by Incubator/ Incubatee	Project Value
16	Orion Consulting Private Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
17	Recyclean Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
18	Recyclean Ltd	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	1,316,796	1,716,796
19	Travel Bay	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
20	Trivity	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
21	Future Academy (Trivity)	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	36,025,900	36,425,900
22	Tuitionline.mu	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
23	U-shop	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
24	Viredo	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Pre-Incubation	47,221	94,442	141,663
25	Viredo	Turbine Incubator Ltd	Incubation	400,000	1,056,796	1,456,796
26	Mausafe	La Plage Factory	Acceleration	300,000	947,780	1,247,780
27	Rwazi	La Plage Factory	Acceleration	300,000	1,272,362	1,572,362
28	Panda & Wolf Advertising Ltd (Home Panda)	La Plage Factory	Acceleration	300,000	890,000	1,190,000
29	Discover Mauritius	La Plage Factory	Acceleration	300,000	1,142,000	1,442,000
30	Eco warriors	La Plage Factory	Incubation	400,000	1,120,000	1,520,000

### Annex III – List of Projects Completed during the period 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019

Ref No.	Title of project	Scheme	Broad Classification	Main Applicant (Local company / Institution)	Collaborating Company / Institution	Funding from MRIC	Private Sector Contribution	Project Value
1	CRIGS-A13 Determining The Optimum Thermal Processing Conditions For Octopus Packed in Retort Pouches	CRIGS	Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences	Walali Co. Ltd, Rodrigues	UoM	1,136,669	1,143,500	2,280,169
2	RUN-1718 Developing and testing a conceptual model on plastic card adoption for emerging countries: A case of Mauritius	URIGS	Social Sciences	UoM	N/A	400,000	N/A	400,000
3	RUN-1614 SMEs and Environmental Regulations: Attitudes, Awareness and Practices in Mauritius	URIGS	Social Sciences	UoM	N/A	490,000	N/A	490,000
4	RUN-1608 Students' (& graduates) difficulties in science, technology, engineering and mathematics during transitions from secondary to tertiary levels, and to teacher training	URIGS	Social Sciences	MIE	N/A	479,000	N/A	479,000
5	RSS-1706 Networking and Internationalisation of SMEs in SIDS economies: Evidence from Mauritius	SSRIGS	Social Sciences	UoM	N/A	142,000	N/A	142,000

## Annex IV – List of events during the period 1st July 2019 to 31st August 2019

	Event	Date
1	Seminar: Developing and testing a conceptual model on plastic card adoption for emerging countries: A case of Mauritius	Friday, 5 July 2019
2	Seminar: SMEs and Environmental Regulations: Attitudes, Awareness and Practices in Mauritius	Friday, 26 July 2019
3	Seminar: Students' (& graduates) difficulties in science, technology, engineering and mathematics during transitions from secondary to tertiary levels, and to teacher training	Wednesday, 14 August 2019
4	Seminar: Networking and Internationalisation of SMEs in SIDS economies: Evidence from Mauritius	Friday, 30 August 2019

## Annex IV - Overseas Mission Attended by MRIC Staff

1. International Workshop on Satellite Constellations and Formation Flying in Glasgow, Scotland held on 03rd July 2019 to 04th August 2019 and 13th July 2019 to 04th August 2019 was attended by Research Assistants Mr Faraaz M Shamutally and Mr Ziyaad M Soreefan respectively.
2. Ceremony organised with MITD (Rodrigues) on Acacia Nilotica, Solar Dryer and FADs Projects in Rodrigues on 26 to 28 August 2019 was attended by Dr Nitin Gopaul, Officer in Charge; Dr Michael Atchia, Chairman and 25 to 31 August 2020 by Dr Madhvee Madhou, Research Coordinator.



**MAURITIUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL**

Level 6, Ebène Heights,  
34 Cybercity,  
Ebène 72201  
Mauritius

Tel: +230 465 1235

Fax: +230 465 1239

Email: [contact@mric.mu](mailto:contact@mric.mu)

Website: <http://www.mric.mu>