



# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022-2023

#### **REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

# His Excellency Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, G.C.S.K. President of the Republic of Mauritius



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#### **Annual Report of the Office of the President**

In accordance with Section 4B of the Finance and Audit Act, and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, the Office of the President has to submit the Annual Report on its performance in respect of the previous financial year.

The Annual Report therefore gives an overview on the performance of the Office of the President during the Financial Year 2022 - 2023.

The Report also highlights the activities organised by the Office of the President as well as the major projects undertaken during the period under review.

In the discharge of her functions, the Secretary to the President has the obligation to ensure that the high standard in the delivery of services is maintained.

STATE HOUSE November 2023

#### **Structure of the Report**

#### Part I: About the Office of the President

Part I of the Report sets out the vision, mission, roles and functions of the Office of the President as well as its organisational structure.

#### Part II: Major Achievements and Challenges

Part II describes the major achievements and a review of performance of the Office of the President during Financial Year 2022 - 2023, including a status on the implementation of capital projects.

#### Part III: Financial Performance

Part III highlights the financial performance for Financial Year 2022 - 2023, an analysis of major changes, including a statement of expenditure.

#### Part IV: Way Forward

Part IV provides the strategic directions which would help in realising the vision, objectives and desired outcomes of the Office of the President.

#### PART 1: ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

#### Vision and Mission

#### Vision

A country where the rights of every citizen are respected in accordance with the Constitution while ensuring that the diverse Mauritian nation lives in peace, harmony, dignity and unity.

#### Mission

To assist the President of the Republic in his/her responsibilities to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and to promote national unity.

#### **Our Core Values**

In the quest towards our vision and the achievement of our mission, we are guided by the following core values:

#### > Integrity

Demonstrating honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior in all actions and decisions.

#### > Innovation

Encouraging creativity, continuous improvement, and the development of new ideas.

#### > Customer Focus

Extending courtesies to customers and prioritizing their needs while striving to exceed their expectations.

#### > Excellence

Pursuing the highest quality in services and performance.

#### > Timeliness

Being responsive to deadlines set.

#### > Accountability

Taking responsibility for one's actions and ensuring the achievement of goals.

#### > Diversity and Inclusion

Valuing and promoting a diverse and inclusive work force.

#### > Respect

Treating everyone with dignity, empathy, and fairness, regardless of their background or position

#### > Collaboration

Promoting teamwork, open communication, and cooperation across the organization.

#### > Passion

Cultivating enthusiasm, dedication, and a strong work ethics among team members.

#### > Justice

We adhere to the principle of natural justice and meritocracy.

#### Safety and Well Being

We are committed to the happiness, safety and well-being of our staff and providing a peaceful and harmonious working environment.

#### Message from the Secretary to the President



As Secretary to the President, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the Financial Year 2022 - 2023 as per the standards of the Finance and Audit Act, as amended.

The Office of the President which is headed by the Secretary to the President, is the administrative arm of His Excellency, the President of the Republic. The Secretary to the President is assisted by a group of administrative, technical and dedicated supporting staff in the discharge of her duties.

During the period under review, the Office of the President has been organising several official activities at the State House which form part of its core activities.

The e-Procurement System, which is now compulsory for all procurement activities, has been implemented by the Office of the President and relevant training has been dispensed to Officers of the Procurement Section to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively.

This Office has also given much importance to the training of staff members. As such during the period under review, the whole training budget has been used for updating the skills of the staff of different sections.

One of the major challenges at the State House remains the upkeep and maintenance of the premises which consists of approximately 236 acres of land and requires major deployment of both physical and human resources.

During the period under review, the Office of the President has implemented several capital projects including the Ayurvedic Garden which is a remarkable Mauritius-India initiative that embodies the essence of a shared commitment towards promoting holistic well-being. This garden represents a living tribute to the wisdom of our ancestors, who recognised the healing power of nature for our overall well-being.

To conclude, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to all staff members for their dedicated and unflinching support, patience, hard work and willingness in discharging their duties and responsibilities at the State House.

Mrs M. Mudaliar Secretary to the President

November 2023

#### Roles and Functions of the Office of the President

Section 28 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a President who shall:

- (a) be the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Mauritius;
- (b) uphold and defend the Constitution and ensure that-
  - (i) the institutions of democracy and the rule of law are protected;
  - (ii) the fundamental rights of all are respected; and
  - (iii) the unity of the diverse Mauritian nation is maintained and strengthened.

The Office of the President has been established to assist the President of the Republic in carrying out his constitutional/official obligations, namely to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and promote national unity.

The overall day-to-day administration of the Office of the President rests upon the Secretary to the President. She is assisted in her tasks by officers of the Administrative Cadre, General Services and other departmental grades as well as staff from the Ministry of Agro- Industry and Food Security and the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development.

#### **Our Objectives**

The objective of the Office of the President is to assist His Excellency the President in his functions including the following:

- Issuing the Writ of Elections (Village Council Elections, Municipal Council Elections, General Elections, By-election);
- Organising the protocol to put in place a Government of the day and the Leader of the
   Opposition after the General Elections;
- Authorising replacement of Ministers on mission / private visit overseas;
- Giving assent to legislation passed by the National Assembly and proclaiming the coming into operation of Acts;
- Appointing chairpersons and members of boards and committees where the Constitution and other legislation so provide;
- Organising activities and functions to mark events, such as National Day Celebrations,
   Insignia Ceremony, Reception for Laureates, etc.;
- Appointing, after consultation with the Government, Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Mauritius abroad;
- Receiving dignitaries at the level of Heads of State, Ministers and Ambassadors at the State House;
- Considering petitions from prisoners made to the Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy;
- Appointing Commissions of Inquiries to inquire into the conduct of any officer in the
  public service, or any matter of public interest or concern in line with Commission of
  Inquiry Act;
- Appointing / Re-appointing or Terminating of Contract of Chairpersons and members of Statutory Boards and Commission of Inquires where the Constitution and other laws so provide;
- Organising Swearing-In Ceremonies (Prime Minister, Other Ministers, Chief Justice, Puisne Judges, Chairpersons, Commissioners and Members of Commissions and Boards and Commission of Inquiries);
- Processing Request for Agrément, Letter of Commission, Exequator, Letter of Credence, Letter of Recall for Ambassadors / High Commissioners / Honorary Consuls to the Republic of Mauritius and overseas.

#### **Gender Statement**

As at 30 June 2023, there were  $\underline{103}$  employees in post at the Office of the President of which  $\underline{64}$  were male and  $\underline{39}$  were female. The senior Staff consisted of the following officers: -

Secretary to the President	Mrs M. Mudaliar
<b>Deputy Permanent Secretary</b>	Miss K. Appadoo
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mr N. Seewoochurn (up to March 2023) Mr S. Balchurn (w.e.f from April 2023)
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	Mr R. Seekunt (up to May 2023) Mrs K. Doobree (w.e.f from May 2023)
Assistant Manager, Procurement and Supply	Mr P. Lutchmun (up to Feb 2023) Mr V. Kaullysing (w.e.f from Feb 2023)
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs L. Toolsy
Office Management Executive	Mrs S. Toolsy Mr Y. Makoonlall
Maintenance Officer	Mr S. Veeramootoo

**Table 1: Senior Staff** 

#### **About Our People**

#### **Staffing**

The overall administration of the Office of the President is under the responsibility of the Secretary to the President. She is supported in the day to day work by officers of the Administration Cadre, the Human Resource Cadre, the Financial Operations Cadre and the Procurement and Supply Cadres as well as Officers belonging to the General Services Cadre.

As at 30 June 2023, the Office of the President had a staff strength of 103 employees, excluding those who were on leave without pay or appointed in other posts or under interdiction.

Besides, there are officers from the Ministry of Agro-industry and Food Security as well as from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development who have been seconded to the Office of the President with a view to providing technical support in the daily execution of the agricultural and maintenance tasks. Moreover, for the smooth running of its activities, this Office has also been provided with the support of six Trainees under the Youth Employment Programme and one officer recruited under the Service to Mauritius Programme.

The human resources at the Office of the President are deployed as follows:

- Tasks relating to the general administration of the Office of the President are undertaken by officers of the Administrative, General Services, Finance and Procurement cadres.
- The Maintenance unit as well as the Ministry of National Infrastructure outstation are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring regular maintenance of infrastructure and upkeep of the Chateau which is the official residence of His Excellency the President of the Republic.
- The Agricultural Unit caters for the proper maintenance of the grounds, as well as the following gardens:
  - (a) Ayurvedic Garden;
  - (b) Gabriel D'Argent Endemic Garden;
  - (c) Medicinal Plant Garden;
  - (d) Arboretum for Rodrigues Endemic Plants;
  - (e) Bamboo Garden;
  - (f) Cut Flower Garden;
  - (g) Cactus Garden;
  - (h) Landscaped Rose Garden; and
  - (i) Kitchen Garden

The unit also maintains a "Parcours de Santé" of 2.2 Kms, forming part of the State House.

- The Household Section is responsible for housekeeping, food and beverages and butler services. They are also responsible for catering services during functions/events organised at the State House.
- The Special Mobile Force (SMF) is responsible for security of the President and safety of all properties at the State House according to the Guard Orders issued by the SMF.
- The VIPSU team is responsible for the personal security of the President and his family.

# The Staffing Position of the Office of the President as at 30 June 2023

Grade	No in Post
Secretary to the President	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	1
Assistant Permanent Secretary	1
Maintenance Officer	1
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	1
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1
Financial Operations Officer/Senior Financial Operations Officer	1
Assistant Manager (Procurement and Supply)	1
Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	1
Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer	1
Office Management Executive	2
Office Management Assistant	5
Management Support Officer	12
Confidential Secretary	3
Word Processing Operator	3
Housekeeper	1
Housekeeper's Assistant	1
Chef	1
Assistant Chef (roster)	1
Butler, Office of the President	1
Senior Assistant Butler	1
Assistant Butler (on roster)	5
Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1
Head Gardener/ Nursery Attendant	4
Senior Gardener/Nursery Attendant	6
Gardener/Nursery Attendant	20
Sanitary Attendant	1
Driver (Heavy Vehicle above 5 tonnes)	1
Driver	3
Head Office Auxiliary	1
Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	5
Handy worker	1
Laundry Attendant	3
General Worker	11
TOTAL	103

Table 2: The Staffing Position of the Office of the President as at 30 June 2023

#### Officers seconded from the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security as at 30 June 2023

Grades	No in Post
Agricultural Support Officer/Senior Agricultural Support Officer	2
Stores Attendant	1
General Worker (Forestry Services)	2
TOTAL	5

Table 3: Officers seconded from the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security as at 30 June 2023

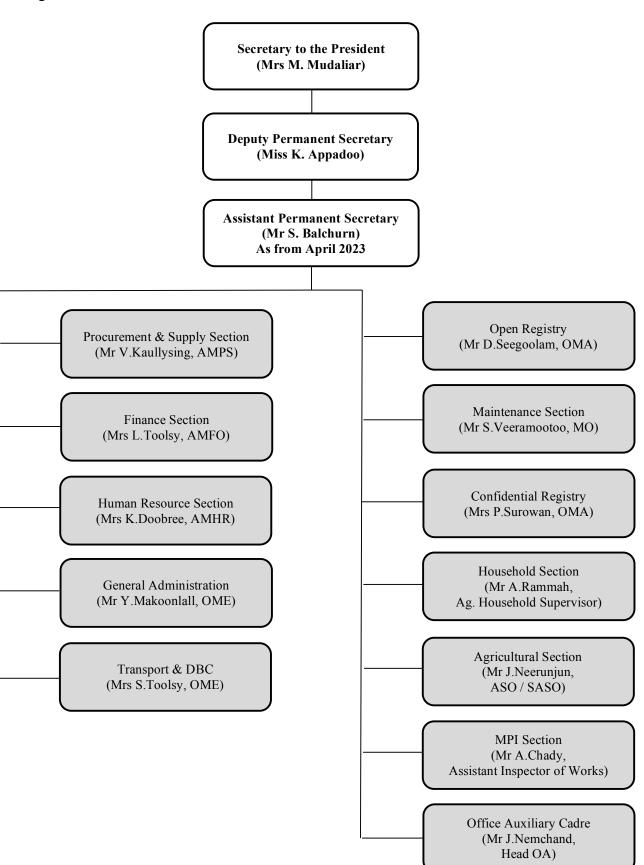
Officers seconded from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development as at 30 June 2023

Grades	No in Post
Assistant Inspector of Works	1
Foremen	1
Stores Attendant	1
Plumber	1
General Worker	6
TOTAL	10

Table 4: Officers seconded from the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development as at 30 June 2023

#### **Organisation Structure**

Organisational Structure of the Office of the President as at 30 June 2023



#### **Manpower Training and Development**

The Office of the President is committed to the training and development of the staff both as a means of career development and productivity improvement. The training programmes are dispensed by different training institutions such as the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms and the Civil Service College, Mauritius.

Newly appointed employees on the establishment of the Office of the President are provided with an induction programme and on-the-job training. This Office had spent 100% of its training Budget in the Financial Year 2022 – 2023 for updating the skills of staff members by providing them with both generic and specific training.

#### Health and Safety at work

A safe and healthy working environment is crucial in the delivery of quality services. As such, protective equipment are provided to the workers according to their requirements and eligibility with a view to preventing work-related injuries.

Section 21 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act stipulates that "every employer of 50 or more employees shall establish a Safety and Health Committee". Under the Chair of the Secretary to the President, the Safety and Health Committee at the Office of the President meets regularly and examines the grievances of staff members and ensures that remedial actions are undertaken within a reasonable time frame.

With a view to strengthening emergency preparedness and creating fire safety awareness among staff members, the Office of the President together with the Health and Safety Unit of the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms annually conduct fire drill exercises.

#### **Team Building Initiatives**

- The importance of team building includes increased communication, interpersonal skills, employee motivation and teamwork. The Office of the President builds strong employee relationships through harmonious working relations between Management and Staff.
- Furthermore, there is an excellent team spirit at the State House which encourages employees to create a good network amongst themselves thereby increasing productivity. In view of the specificities of the functions of this Office, staff members are regularly called upon to work beyond normal office hours, during weekends as well as on public holidays.

- With a view to building team unity and increasing motivation at work, this Office organised a workshop on "Stress Management at work" on Saturday 03 June 2023 at Ambre Hotel. The workshop was very fruitful and was positively welcomed by staff members.
- The Office of the President Staff Welfare Association has been set up with the objective to promote the welfare of its members and to motivate them to have a proper work life balance.
- The Staff Welfare Association also organised a series of events. It participated in the Civil Service Kermesse with a view to raising funds for the organization of welfare activities for the benefit of its members.

#### PART II: MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

#### **Major Achievements**

Farewell Calls and Presentation of Credentials by Foreign Ambassadors/ High Commissioners to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Mauritius



27 July 2022 – Reception in honour of Laureates of the HSC 2019 & 2021 Examinations



28 July 2022 – Reception in honour of Laureates of the HSC 2019 & 2021 Examinations





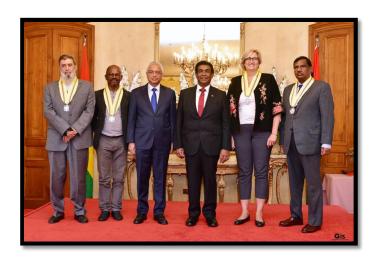




**25 August 2022** – Piano Concert by Mr Motoki Hirai, Japanese Pianist organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Mauritius



**30 November 2022** – National Awards Ceremony (Insignia 2022)



**01 December 2022** – National Awards Ceremony (Insignia 2022)



**09 January 2023** – National Awards Ceremony (Insignia 2022)



6 December 2022 – Celebration of the International day of persons with disabilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Security and the Special Education Needs Authority (SENA)



19 December 2022 – Celebration of World Children's Day by M.Kids Association





21 March 2023 – Cocktail Dinatoire in honour of Diplomatic Corps in the context of the celebration of the National Day 2023



29 & 30 April 2023 – World Heritage Day (Open Day of Château de Réduit to the Public)

#### **Major Challenges**

- The vast grounds of the State House remain a major challenge owing to climatic changes and inadequate human resources. This requires the mobilization of resources in terms of machinery and human capital.
- The renovation of the State House Phase II being capital intensive remains also a major challenge. The Chateau, which is a national heritage site, has to be properly maintained to prevent any further deterioration. A Consultant would be recruited for the project to prepare the Scope of Works and bidding documents for the project.
- The setting up of an Ayurvedic Garden was another major challenge which was executed with the collaboration of the Indian High Commission.
- The uplifting of Health Track is in line with the Government programme 2020-2024 to *interalia*, promote greater engagement of the population in sports. The works comprise the rehabilitation of the Health Track, fixing of directional signs and provision of amenities such as toilet, log benches, eco-bins, and sports equipment for outdoor gym as well as provision of parking facilities.

## Status on the Implementation of Capital Projects at the State House as at 30 June 2023

SN	PROJECTS	STATUS	REMARKS
(i)	Renovation of two quarters at the State House	Completed	
(ii)	Electrical works for the two quarters at the State House	Ongoing	The Project is expected to be completed in October 2023
(iii)	Upgrading of Barracks [Ex. Administrative Block III at the State House] [Now Procurement & Supply Section and Maintenance Section]	Completed	
(iv)	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Data Points and Gins Connectivity with Cabling Works (Now Procurement & Supply section and Maintenance Section)	Completed	
(v)	Procurement of Electrical works and items (Supply, Testing and Commissioning at the State House)	Completed	
(vi)	Upgrading of State House [Global Consultancy for the Upgrading of the State House – Phase II]	Ongoing	Bids under evaluation
(vii)	Setting up of Ayurvedic Garden Kiosk and upgrading of the existing swimming pool into a pond	Completed	
(viii)	Landscaping works for Ayurvedic Garden at the State House, Le Réduit	Completed	

Table 5: Status on the Implementation of Capital Projects at the State House as at 30 June 2023

#### EVENTS HOSTED/ORGANISED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### Main Activities Organised at the State House

	<u>Credentials</u>
Date	Purpose
5 July 2022	Ambassador of the State of Israel, Mr Eliav Belotsercovsky
22 July 2022	Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Ante Cicvarić
27 July 2022	High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Lovell Macio Michael Francis
13 Oct 2022	Ambassador of Serbia, Mr Goran VUJIČIČ
17 Oct 2022	High Commissioner of New Zealand, Dr Emma Rebecca Dunlop-Bennett
26 Oct 2022	Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Mungkorn Pratoomkaew
31 Oct 2022	Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, Mr Raimundo Robredo Rubio
29 Nov 2022	Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Michael Gerhard Karl HÄUSLER
17 Feb 2023	High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr Joseph Srimal Wickremasinghe
22 February 2023	Ambassador of the United States of America, Mr Henry Victor Jardine
20 March 2023	Ambassador of Belgium, Mr Peter Huyghebaert
17 April 2023	Mr. Attila Gyorgy Horvath, Ambassador designate of Hungary
24 April 2023	Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Tomasz Grysa
26 May 2023	Ambassador of Türkiye, Mr Ishak Ebrar Çubukçu
12 June 2023	Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Ceremony
19 June 2023	Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Hassan Ali Bakshi

**Table 6: Credentials** 

Courtesy Visits		
Date	Purpose	
3 Aug 2022	The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, The Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland KC	
23 Aug 2022	Her Excellency Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General of COMESA	
16 Sep 2022	Indian Navy Crew comprising Captain Vipul Meherishi, Lieutenant Commander Payal Gupta, Commander Vikas Sheoran, Lieutenant Commander Kaushal Pednekar, Lieutenant Commander Dilna K, Lieutenant Commander Roopa A	
6 Dec 2022	The newly appointed United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator in Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms Lisa Simrique Singh	
8 Dec 2022	Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, of the World Bank Group, Ms Victoria Kwakwa	
24 Jan 2023	Director General of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) of Dubaï, Mr Salem Humaid Al Marri	
25 February 2023	The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr Julius Maada Bio	
29 April 2023	The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, India, Shri Devendra Fadnavis	
24 May 2023	Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration Dr Hab. Marcin Czepelak	
26 May 2023	Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance – Dr Kevin Casas Zamora	
29 May 2023	Minister of Sugar Industry and Multi Ethnic Affairs of the Republic of Fiji – Mr Charan Jeath Singh	
30 May 2023	US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources  – Mr Richard Rahul Verma	
10 June 2023	H.E Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan AL Nahayan, State Minister of the United Arab Emirates	

**Table 7: Courtesy Visits** 

<u>Farewell Calls</u>			
Date	Purpose		
23 Aug 2022	High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania, Prof Emmanuel MBENNAH		
5 Oct 2022	Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Paolo Rocco Gualtieri		
8 Nov 2022	The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Ms Christine N. Umutoni		

**Table 8: Farewell Calls** 

	SWEARING IN
Date	Purpose
29 Nov 2022	Appointment as Chairperson, of the National Human Rights Commission
	Appointment as member of the National Preventive Mechanism of the National Human Rights Commission,
	Appointment as member of the Human Rights Division of the Human Rights Commission
12 Dec 2022	Appointment as Deputy Chairperson, National Preventive Mechanism Division, National Human Rights Commission,
3 May 2023	Appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court

**Table 9: Swearing In** 

#### Risk Management, Citizen Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

- The provisions of the Financial Management Manual, the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Human Resource Management Manual are strictly adhered to.
- As part of the Public Service Reforms, the Electronic Attendance System, the Performance Management System, the e-Registry System, the Online Government Asset Register System, the e-Procurement System and the e-HR system have been successfully implemented. Monitoring is done through Transformation and Implementation Committee.
- The Customer Charter for the Office of the President sets out the service standards and timely delivery for the main services offered as well as the core values of this office.

#### **Status on Implementation of Key Action**

During the Financial Year under review, Government adopted five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), relating to:

- 1. At least 90% utilization of training budget by Ministries and Departments;
- 2. Implementation of the e-HR System;
- 3. Compliance of buildings housing public officers with fire safety requirements;
- 4. Filling of vacancies; and
- 5. At least 75% of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Corruption Risk Assessment Report

The performance of this Office in respect of the five Key Performance Indicators is as follows:

MONITORING OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS					
SN	Key Performance Indicator	Achievement as at 30 June 2023			
1.	At least 90% utilization of training budget by Ministries and Departments	100%			
2.	Implementation of the e-HR System	100%			
3.	Compliance of buildings housing public officers with fire safety requirements	60%			
4.	Filling of Vacancies	96%			
5.	At least 75% of the implementation of the recommendation contained in the Corruption Risk Assessment Report	95%			

**Table 10: Monitoring of Key Performance Indicators** 

#### PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

#### **Financial Highlights**

#### **Budget Estimates**

Under vote 1-1 of the budget estimates 2022/2023, the Office of the President was allocated funds amounting to Rs 90M. Out of the 90M, Rs 70.4M was provided for Recurrent Expenditure and Rs 19,6M for Capital Expenditure.

The table below shows the Budget Estimates and Actual Expenditure for Vote 1-1 of the Office of the President in Financial Year 2022/2023.

#### **Analysis of Major Changes**

	Financial Year 2021/2022		Financial Year 2022/2023	
	Voted Provision (Rs Million)	Actual Expenditure (Rs Million)	Voted Provision (Rs Million)	Actual Expenditure (Rs Million)
Compensation of Employees	45,230	50,028	51,610	50,875
Goods and Services	17,270	18,019	18,790	22,120
Capital Expenditure	23,000	5,141	19,600	10,372
Total	85,500	73,188	90,000	83,367

Table 11: Analysis of Expenditure for Financial Year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Note: Expenditure in excess of budget provision is incurred through re-allocation of funds from savings under other items.

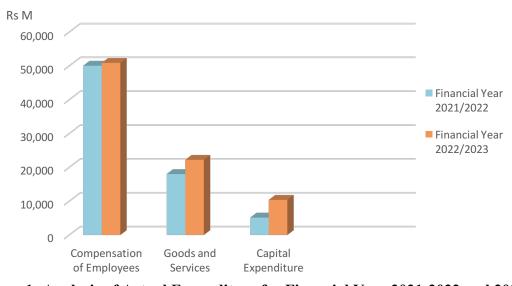


Figure 1: Analysis of Actual Expenditure for Financial Year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

#### PART IV: WAY FORWARD

#### **Strategic Directions**

1. There is constant need to maintain and improve the infrastructure at the State House and in this context this Office has embarked on a series of enhancement/rehabilitation projects which are as follows: -

#### • Enhancement of the existing security measures

The existing security measures at the State House are being enhanced.

#### • Refurbishment of the State House

The roof of the State House has been renovated and there is now need to carry out interior refurbishment works. In this respect, provision has been made in the Financial Year 2023/2024 for consultancy services for the Interior Decoration of the Chateau as part of the Phase II of the renovation of the State House Project.

#### • Embellishment Works at the Main Gate

The State House is classified under the National Heritage Fund. To this effect, the Office of the President has come up with a series of projects to upgrade the gardens of the State House. The main entrance has been enhanced in terms of structure and security so that it gives more value to this historical site.

#### • **Upgrading of two (2) Kiosks**

Two (2) Kiosks at the State House have to be repaired and upgraded as both of them were damaged during the passage of the tropical cyclone Batsirai on Mauritius in January 2022.

#### • Rehabilitation of Ponds and Upgrading of Canals

In line with embellishment works being carried out by the Office of the President, the rehabilitation of a retaining structure is being implemented with a view to re-establishing a water pond for the production of lotus plants and water lilies. The present structure is in an abandoned state.

- 2. In our search of excellence, we strive to constantly review our work methods with a view to increasing efficiency and effectiveness.
- 3. Efforts are required to ensure that a conducive and congenial work environment is maintained.