



**NATIONAL LIBRARY**  
(Republic of Mauritius)

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2000-2001**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors, Fon Sing Building  
12, Edith Cavell Street  
Port-Louis  
Republic of Mauritius

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### ***MISSION***

To support the provision of, and access to, information for the nation. To collect and preserve the collective memory of the country to best serve the nation and to provide access to the information resources of the world.

### ***VISION***

To develop the National Library as the nation's leading documentary resource pertaining to the Republic of Mauritius and as the apex library, serving the needs of the Mauritian people at large in research, scholarship and creativity.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001  
CORPORATE INFORMATION**

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Banker	:	State Bank of Mauritius State Bank Tower 1, Queen Elizabeth II Avenue Port Louis
Auditor	:	Director of Audit
Chairman of Board	:	Dr. Raj Sunkur Lutchmeah
Director	:	Mr Yves Chan Kam Lon

# **NATIONAL LIBRARY**

(Republic of Mauritius)

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2000-2001**

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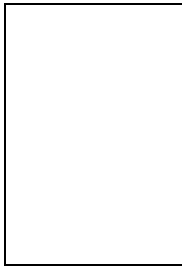
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FOREWORD  
BY  
DR R.S. LUTCHMEAH  
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

I am delighted to present this Annual Report. During the year our efforts were focused principally on building on the foundation of the National Library in order to best serve the Mauritian public and towards the attainment of the mission of the National Library.

As this Annual Report demonstrates, there have been many initiatives and actions taken, and already, a great deal has been achieved at the National Library including increasing the holding, improving on the quality and range of services, developing networking among the Libraries of Mauritius and collaboration with overseas ones, and increasing staff capacity in order to address the challenges ahead. All the activities as per the National Library's Strategic Plan for the period under review are on target.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to record my appreciation of the Director and the staff of the National Library for their outstanding work and achievements during the year.

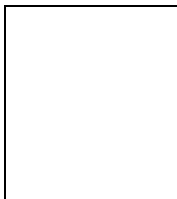
Our task has been greatly helped by the unreserved support extended to us by the Ministry of Arts and Culture, and our collaborators.

The National Library is gradually positioning itself to take a leading role in the knowledge-driven society and functioning as the apex institution of the Library System in Mauritius. We must continue to work together and maintain our efforts in order to move further ahead.

*6<sup>th</sup> May 2002*

**DR R.S. LUTCHMEAH**





REVIEW OF THE YEAR  
BY  
Y. CHAN KAM LON  
Director

It is almost two years now since the National Library officially opened its door. As such, the year under review was mostly devoted towards the consolidation of the National Library's foundation, while simultaneously improving on the quality of services offered to the public at large.

The financial year 2000-2001 marked the implementation of the immediate and the medium term objectives of the National Library, as laid down in its Strategic Plan. Stakeholders of the National Library will no doubt commend the achievements made in this short period. Our strategy is to continue on the path of progress and we are confident enough that we would implement, if not in toto, most of the objectives, contained in the Strategic Plan. It is to be noted that the plan was closely monitored by the Management Audit Bureau on a bi-annual basis.

We have to harness all our efforts to complete the lacunae in the Mauritiana collection, which we have statutorily received from the Archives Department and the Mauritius Institute Public Library. The National Library, being the library of the last resort, has to possess the most exhaustive collection of Mauritiana documents. Measures are being taken to remedy this situation.

The National Library has already established its National Bibliographic Centre. Bibliographical work is under way and the publication of the '*National Bibliography*' is scheduled for December, 2001. At the same time, the National Library has been compiling the appropriate tools to make information readily available to users and in that context, a '*Directory of Libraries, Documentation and Bookshops in Mauritius*' was published and launched in December last during the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the National Library.

The '*National Union Catalogue of Mauritiana*' is also in the editing stage and will shortly be published. A list of Mauritiana newspapers has already been prepared and is currently being edited.

Perhaps it is equally important to mention that the inter library loan cooperation, whereby libraries could pull resources together for the benefit of users, is already well advanced and would soon be implemented.

Concerning the preservation and conservation aspects of documents, the National Library is in the process of acquiring a Microfilm Camera and a Microfilm Printer cum Reader. And equally important has been the setting up of a bindery within the National Library to treat, repair and maintain the Mauritiana materials and other significant publications to ensure they are preserved for current and future use.

These are some of the main achievements of the National Library, during the period under review. The year 2000-2001 was also marked by significant events like the holding of a public exhibition on the theme '*The Sanctuary of Knowledge: an insight*' and the publication of the *National Library Staff Handbook* and my fruitful participation in the conference on '*National Libraries in an African Renaissance*' in South Africa, where I presented a paper on the role of the '*National Library Chief Executive Officer and Management Team*'.

At this critical development stage of the National Library, I must express my thanks and appreciation to Dr Raj Lutchmeah, Chairman of the National Library Board for his personal encouragement and enthusiasm. I would fail in my duty if I don't thank all my personnel, for their dedication and their unflinching support.

**Y. Chan Kam Lon**

## 1. THE ORGANISATION

The National Library was set up by virtue of the National Library Act, 1996 operating within the portfolio of the Minister of Arts and Culture with responsibilities for collecting and conserving the national heritage materials and making these available to the Mauritian public. The Act defines the Library's role, corporate governance and accounting framework. The Library is subject to the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act. The National Library Act came into operation on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1996 and provides reporting, accountability and other rules for the Library including:

- reporting obligations through an annual report with an audited Statements of Accounts;
- appointment and protection of staff;
- deposit of copies of library materials;
- furnish the responsible Minister such information and documents as he may require.

### 1.1 STATUTORY OBJECTIVES

- to promote and encourage the use of library materials;
- to acquire library materials generally, and, in particular, a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Mauritius;
- to collect, receive and preserve all library materials required to be deposited in the Library;
- to lend library materials to the public;
- to make library materials available to the public for reference;
- to participate in planning library services in Mauritius, promote research in library fields and provide assistance in information handling techniques;
- to act as the national bibliographic centre and maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies;
- to act as an organising agency for national and international lending and exchange of library materials; and
- to initiate and promote co-operation between the Library and other libraries, both local and foreign.

A copy of the Act is at Appendix 1.

### 1.2 THE BOARD

The National Library is governed by a Board consisting of a Chairman and eleven members. The Board meets once a month and nine members constitute a quorum. It is responsible for the general policies and directions of the Library consistent with the National Library Act. Among the twelve members, six are appointed by the Minister for a period of three years and the six others are representatives of various ministries and departments. The Sub-Committees of the Board are at Appendix 2.

During the period under review, the Board consisted of :

1. **Dr Raj Sunkur Lutchmeah**, Chairman
2. Representatives of the Ministry of Education & Scientific Research  
**Mr P. Beekawoo** (Until 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2001)  
**Mr. N .Pem** (As from 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2001)

3. Representatives of the Ministry of Arts and Culture  
**Mrs J. Lan Hing Po** (Until 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2000)  
**Mr I. Bhugan** (As from 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2001)
4. Representative of the Ministry of Economic Development,  
Productivity and Regional Cooperation  
**Mr. S. Rungassamy**
5. Representative of the Ministry of Finance  
**Mr M. Maherally**
6. **Mr H. Sooprayen**, Chief Archivist, Archives Department  
(Until 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2001)  
**Mr G. Suneechur**, Ag. Chief Archivist, National Archives  
Department (As from 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2001)
7. **Mr S. Augustin**, Head of the Library Cadre, Ministry of Education  
& Scientific Research (Until 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2000)  
**Mr F. Soogali**, Ag. Head Library Cadre (As from 16<sup>th</sup> August  
2000)
8. Representative of an Academic Library  
**Mr B. R. Goordyal**, Chief Librarian, University of Mauritius  
(Until 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2001)  
**Mr S. Cahoolessur**, Ag. Head of Library and Archives,  
Mahatma Gandhi Institute (As from 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2001)
9. Representative of a Public Library  
**Mrs T. K. Hurryrag-Ramnauth**, Senior Librarian, Carnegie  
Library, Municipality of Curepipe
10. Representative of a Special Library  
**Mrs R. Ng Kee Kwong**, Head of Library and Scientific  
Information Service, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research  
Institute
11. Representative of the Association of Urban Authorities  
**Mr B. Silarsah**, Head Librarian, City Library,  
Municipality of Port Louis
12. Representative of the Association of District Councils  
**Mr P. S. Mahabirsingh**, Black River District Council  
(Until 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2001)  
**Mr G. Gokool**, Pamplemousses/Riv. Du Rempart District  
Council (As from 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2001)

All decisions taken by the Board are implemented by the Director and the staff of the National Library.

## 2. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2002

The National Library launched its Strategic Plan 2000-2002 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2000. The Plan contains, *inter alia*, the vision, strategic management principles, goals and objectives and plan of action that would govern the National Library up to the year 2002.

All stakeholders were involved in the preparation of the Plan: the Board, management, librarians and the Library Association.

The help of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute was solicited to print 200 copies of the Plan. It was widely circulated among stakeholders.

#### 2.1.1 Progress Reports of the Plan

The first and second six-monthly progress reports of the Strategic Plan covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 were approved by the Board for onward transmission to the Management Audit Bureau for monitoring purposes. The Management Audit Bureau showed its satisfaction to the progress made.

### 2.2 THE COLLECTION

The holding in the National Library as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 was **99,882**.

Library materials acquired for the year 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 amount to **29,100**. A breakdown of the collection is presented below:

#### 2.2.1 Books and Theses

Source of acquisition	No of books
Books: Legal Deposit	1,637
Donation	1,454
Purchase	103
Transferred from Archives Department	190
UN: Deposit	487
Theses: Individuals	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,883</b>

**2.2.2 Periodicals/Serials and Reports**

Source of Acquisition	No. of Periodicals
Legal Deposit	2,922
National Assembly Debates: Legal Deposit	84
Government Gazettes: Legal Deposit	816
MSIRI (Bound Volumes): Donation	131
La Sentinelle Ltée (Bound Volumes): Donation	194
Transferred from Archives Department	462
Others: Donation	1,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,047</b>

**2.2.3 Newspapers**

Source of Acquisition	No. of Newspapers
Legal Deposit	18,036
La Sentinelle Ltée (Local): Donation	437
La Sentinelle Ltée (Foreign): Donation	181
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,654</b>

**2.2.4 Audio-visual Materials**

Source of Acquisition	No. of AV Materials
Audio-cassettes: Legal Deposit	173
Donation	55
Video cassettes: Legal Deposit	246
Donation	1
CDs/CD ROMs: Legal Deposit	9
Donation	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>516</b>

**2.3 ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS**

Air Mauritius has agreed to be the official carrier of the National Library. A Protocol d'Accord was signed by Air Mauritius and National Library. Air Mauritius would provide facilities for the airlift of five tons of cargo free this year from any country where MK has landing rights.

## **2.4 DEPOSITORY OF UN AND UNESCO DOCUMENTS**

The National Library became the official depository of the United Nations and UNESCO documents for Mauritius respectively as from 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2000.

## **2.5 COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

The Mauritian materials and other significant publications are treated, repaired and maintained to ensure they are preserved for current and future use. Other materials are maintained in a useable condition for as long as practicable.

The Library collections consist of materials that are naturally subject to deterioration in storage and use. A Binding Unit had been set up and two Binders were recruited. Presently, the items most at risk, i.e., the bound volumes of newspapers received as they are from the statutory transfer from the Archives Department are being repaired and maintained.

As at date, some 167 materials had been repaired and maintained, in accordance with environmental and security standards.

## **2.6 LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

### **2.6.1 Inter-Library Loan Agreement**

In line with the strategic objective no. 5 of the **Strategic Plan 2000-2002**, a network of libraries in Mauritius has been set up, whereby resource sharing has been introduced.

Following the compilation of the *National Union Catalogue of Mauritian materials* and its imminent publication, the terms and conditions for an inter-library loan cooperation had been worked out and circulated among the different libraries in Mauritius. It initially concerns the following libraries: the National Library, the Mauritius Institute of Education Library, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute Library, the Mauritius College of the Air Library, the Municipality of Port Louis Library, the Municipality of Vacoas/Phoenix Library, the Municipality of Quatre Bornes Library, the Carnegie Library and the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture library.

Other remaining libraries would join in the inter-library loan cooperation project in due time.

### **2.6.2 Library Software Demonstration**

In the context of the forthcoming project of the computerization of the National Library, representatives of the State Informatics Ltd and Softlink (U.K) Ltd, visited the National Library for demonstration of library software in January and March, 2001 respectively. Other librarians were also invited to attend.

## **2.7 CONSULTANCY**

The National Library provided its expertise at the request of the Management Audit Bureau to organize its Documentation Unit. Classification and cataloguing of books and magazines were carried out, according to *Dewey Decimal Classification – 21<sup>st</sup> Edition*.

The National Library also provided its expertise to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the organization of its Documentation Centre.

### 3. ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESOURCES

#### 3.1 FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The National Library has a Search Room, which can accommodate a maximum of 100 users at a time, in an air conditioned environment, conducive to research and study. The Search Room is opened from 09.00 hours to 16.00 hours on weekdays and 09.00 hours to 12.00 hours on Saturdays.

The range of services to users is as follows:

1. *Reference Service*: provides ready and long-range reference service to any user in person or by correspondence, according to the rules and regulations of the library.
2. *Electronic search facilities*: provides free Internet access to all users for one hour.
3. *Reprographic Service*: provides photocopy service of books, periodicals and other documents, under conditions specified on the Copyright Act 1997.
4. *Reservation*: enables any user to make request for document(s) before coming to the National Library, in person, by phone, by mail or for future consultation.
5. *Press cuttings*: maintains a collection of press cuttings on subjects of interest to the Republic of Mauritius, available to the reader.
6. *Lending Service*: lends library materials to other libraries.
7. *Bibliographic services*.

#### 3.1.1 Internet

One year free Internet Access by Telecom Plus

Telecom Plus, a subsidiary of Mauritius Telecom and France Telecom, provided the National Library with a monthly package of 60 hours during one year free Internet Access with no rental charges on one telephone line. The access was granted free to the public users of the Search Room as from 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2001.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001, some 537 persons made use of the Internet facilities. 53 diskettes were sold to users for the same period for downloading purposes.

#### 3.1.2 Photocopy and Scanning Services

Photocopy and scanning services were available at the Search Room as from July 2000. A fee of one rupee was charged for an A4 size paper and one rupee fifty cents for that of an A3 size paper for photocopy.

1,689 readers and staff combined used the photocopy service; 3 readers used the scanning services from July 2000 to June 2001.

**3.1.3 Searches made by users as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001:**

S/N	Reference Services	No. of Readers
1	Books	1,751
2	Newspapers/serials	1,455
3	Internet	426
4	Request by phone/mail	277
5	Audio-visual	7
6	Photocopy and scanning	1,692

**3.2 REQUEST FROM OVERSEAS**

Requests for information kept pouring from overseas through our email service. Some local institutions and organizations were contacted to make available certain of the information requested. Most of the requests were attended within a reasonable period of time. The list below shows the diversity and range of information requested by overseas users:

S/N	Request for Information	Subject
1	Mrs. Adeline Christiane National Library of Seychelles, Seychelles	(i) List of Mauritian Authors (ii) Request for an abbreviated list of Mauritian Authors
2	Mr. Arnoni, N. Republic of South Africa	Information about "Maroons and Castaways" Treasures
3	Mr. Bontemps Jean Claude, Australia	(i) Family Tree (ii) Information on Civil Status Division & Archives Department
4	Mr. Changer Martin Australia	Genealogy
5	Dr. J. de Mallac de Vessac France	Request to give name and address of the most popular libraries in Port Louis
6	Mr. Ffeary-Smyrl Steven C.	Requesting information about Registration of documents and Civil Status
7	Ms Grindu Evelyne. Reunion Island	(i) "Elites" V.I.P of Mauritius (ii) Mauritian Society – Religions, Economy and Politics
8	Ms Halada Janet U.S.A.	Genealogy/history
9	Mr. Howden Donald United Kingdom	(i) Information on death of Mr Frederic Charles Estill on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 1896 Historic Newspapers (over 100 years) (ii)
10	Mrs. Hutchings Zeenat United Kingdom	Information on genealogy
11	Ms Lan Annelise U.S.A	Mauritian Society – Especially "Creoles"



12	Mr. Norgard Richard U.S.A.	Information on ship 'Success' in Mauritius in 1841
13	Prof. Duminy, A Republic of South Africa	Information about French ships in the Indian Ocean - 18 <sup>th</sup> Century
14	Mr. Sagar David United Kingdom	Information on ships "R.I.M.S Northebrook" & "R.I.M.S Dufferin"
15	Mrs. Scott Angela	Information on genealogy
16	Mr. Segui Laurent France	Books available at the National Library in connection with Development of Tourism Industry
17	Mr. Steere Paul J. Kenya	Request of most recent list of publications
18	Mr. Winson, Malaysia	Picture of Mr Charles John Irving (died on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 1917)

### 3.3 INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMME

#### 3.3.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the National Library

To mark the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the National Library, a programme was organized whereby the *Directory of Libraries, Documentation Centers and Bookshops in Mauritius*, a home publication, was launched by the Minister of Arts and Culture on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2000. The function was attended by several personalities, among whom were the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa and Directors of various institutions.

A copy of the Directory was remitted to each sponsor and to guests present.

On the same occasion, Mrs N. Luckeenarain donated a magnificent painting to the National Library. Also, Mrs Beer, the goddaughter of Lois Masson, handed to the National Library, a script of the famous Mauritian writer, entitled '*Christophe et Le Bonnet*'.

#### 3.3.2 Public Exhibition on the theme: '*The Sanctuary of Knowledge: An Insight*'

A public exhibition on the theme '*The Sanctuary of Knowledge: An Insight*' was officially opened by the Minister of Arts and Culture, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2000 in the presence of several eminent personalities and the press. The idea was to present the concept of the different libraries in Mauritius and also to have an overview of the different national libraries of the world. An information booklet accompanied the Exhibition.

The National Library had enlisted the support of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure & Inland Transport, the Mauritius Film Development Corporation, the Police, the Government Information Services, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute which were all instrumental in the organization of the exhibition.

The following embassies contributed in the provision of exhibits: the Australian High Commission, the British High Commission, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the American Embassy and the Republic of South Africa High Commission.

### 3.3.3 Guided Visits

- 28 students and teachers of the Port Louis Academy Muslims Education Society visited the National Library.
- Several colleges of Port Louis, namely Loreto Convent, Bhujoharry College, London College and La Tour Koenig SSS, had a guided tour between the months of March and July 2001.
- 500 copies of an Information Brochure on the National Library have been despatched to the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research for onward transmission to the State Secondary Schools.

### 3.4 MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

Official Meetings and Committees attended by the Director from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001.

1. Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
2. Committee of Historians
3. Culture House Project
4. E-Government: Enhancing Services to the citizens
5. Meeting on an Exhibition of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mauritius
6. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's Visit to Mauritius: A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration (Conference)
7. Musée de la Photographie
8. Musée des Images
9. National Genealogy Committee
10. National Monuments Board
11. National Productivity Consultative Committee
12. Permanent Committee for Culture
13. Sports Documentation & Information Centre Committee
14. 166<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery
15. 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dutch Landing in Rodrigues

## **4. LINKAGES AND NETWORKING**

### **4.1 UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS (UAP)**

The National Library is participating in the Inter-Library cooperation among national libraries of the world through the Universal Availability of Publications Programme (UAP).

The National Library has acquired IFLA Vouchers for the international inter-library transactions through the scheme, called IFLA Voucher Scheme, to operate the UAP.

The scheme aims to reduce the number of financial transactions involved in paying for interlibrary loan and document supply services through a reusable voucher system. The libraries of some 60 countries are participating in the IFLA Scheme.

### **4.2 ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

An '*Association of Friends of the National Library of Mauritius*' has been approved by the National Library Board on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2001.

The main objective of the Association is to foster a wide public appreciation of the library and to promote public interest in and support for the work of the National Library.

## 5. STAFF MATTERS

### 5.1 DIRECTOR'S MISSIONS ABROAD

The Director attended the conference on '*National Libraries in an African Renaissance*', South Africa, from the 29<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. He presented a paper on the theme '*The Role of the National Library Chief Executive Officer and Management Team*' and he chaired also the second plenary session.

The Director attended an international visitorship programme, entitled '*Libraries and Information Management*', from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2001 in the United States. The programme was sponsored entirely by the US Government.

### 5.2 CONFIRMATION OF STAFF IN THEIR APPOINTMENT

	Name of Officer	Post Held	Employed and Appointed on	Confirmation Date
1	Miss H. Lam	<i>Library Clerk</i>	9.8.99	9.8.2000
2	Mrs C. D. Sahadew	<i>Library Clerk</i>	17.8.99	17.8.2000
3	Mrs J.D. Vadivaloo	<i>Clerk/Word Processing Operator</i>	23.8.99*	
4	Miss S. D. Sembhoo	<i>Clerk/Word Processing Operator</i>	30.8.99	30.8.2000
5	Mrs D. Appadoo	<i>Confidential Secretary</i>	31.8.99	1.10.2000
6	Mr. J. Ramsamy	<i>Library Officer</i>	1.9.99	1.9.2000
7	Mr. P. Cunniappen	<i>Office Attendant/Driver</i>	1.9.99	1.9.2000
8	Mr. I. Ramjaun	<i>Library Officer</i>	1.9.99	1.9.2000
9	Mr. S. Itteea	<i>Stores Officer</i>	3.9. 99*	
10	Mrs S. Mungur	<i>Clerk/Word Processing Operator</i>	6.9.99	6.9.2000
11	Mr. N. Hossen Rahman	<i>Library Clerk</i>	6.9.99	6.9.2000
12	Mrs B. N. Meer Hossen	<i>Library Clerk</i>	1.10.99	1.10.2000
13	Mr. M. Mathoorasing	<i>Accounts Clerk</i>	11.10.99	18.10.2000
14	Mr. S. Manick	<i>Office Attendant/ Driver</i>	7.1.2001	
15	Mr. D. Jodhun	<i>Ag. Secretary, National Library Board</i>	(On secondment) since April 1999	

\*Mrs J.D. Vadivaloo, Clerk/Word Processing Operator, resigned on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2000

\*Mr S. Itteea, Stores Officer, resigned on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2000

### 5.3 STAFF JOINED AS FROM JANUARY 2001

S/N	Name of Officer	Post Held	Employed and Appointed on
1	Mr E. Latchmun	<i>Machine Binder</i>	On secondment from the Government Printing since 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2000.
2	Mr S. Hauradhun	<i>Library Clerk</i>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2001
2	Mrs C. D. Ramphul	<i>Library Clerk</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2001*
4	Mrs C.D. Henry	<i>Clerk/Word Processing Operator</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2001
5	Mr B. Ardjoon	<i>Library Attendant</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2001
6	Miss S. Pydiamah	<i>Clerk/Word Processing Operator</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2001
7	Mr A. D. Rocves	<i>Library Attendant</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2001
8	Mr K. Jeewooth	<i>Stores Officer</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2001
9	Miss N. Khoody	<i>Library Clerk</i>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2001
10	Mr A. Appadoo	<i>Binder</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2001

\*Mrs C. D. Ramphul, Library Clerk, resigned on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2001

### 5.4 NATIONAL LIBRARY PENSION FUND

Following the inclusion of the National Library with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1997, under the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds Act 1978 (as amended), the SICOM Ltd has set up a Fund in the name of the National Library Pension Fund for the purpose of paying a retirement pension to the employees of the National Library.

The Fund is managed by the SICOM Ltd, in accordance with the provisions laid down under the Act as from August 2000 and is currently credited with the pension contributions, payable in respect of the full time and permanent employees and with the investment income generated from these contributions. The National Library contributes 15% of the salaries of the employees into the Fund.

### 5.5 TRAINING COURSE FOR BINDERS

Mr E. Latchmun and Mr A. Appadoo, Binders, attended a training course in the field of restoration of manuscripts held by two experts from the National Library of China in the months of March and April, 2001 at the National Archives Department.

### 5.6 ATTACHMENTS

The National Library had been hosting placements for University of Mauritius students enrolled on the BA LIS Degree course.

Mrs I. Ramma, a student following the certificate course in librarianship, was on attachment for two months at the National Library, to acquire practical work experience.

Five other university students, namely Miss N. Contavadoo, Mrs S. Hanoomanjee, Mrs L. Rampadaruth, Mrs S. Ujoodha and Mrs K. Seebun who were reading for the BA in Library and Information Science came on work placement for three weeks at the National Library, in part fulfillment of the requirements for their course.

Miss K. D. Seetah, a B.A holder, was on attachment to the National Library for one year as from the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 under the 'Skills Development Programme' for unemployed graduates.

## 6. AUDIT REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**REPORT BY THE  
DIRECTOR OF AUDIT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

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**Examination of the National Library  
Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2001**

(the logo of the audit office has to be scanned)

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT  
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001**

I have audited the financial statements of the National Library for the year ended 30 June 2001, in accordance with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

2. **Respective Responsibilities of the Library and Auditors.** As required by the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the Library is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and their submission to me. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on my audit, on these statements and to report my opinion thereon.

3. **Basis of Opinion.** I conducted my audit in accordance with government auditing standards and procedures that are consistent with those recommended by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. An audit includes examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and judgements made by the Library in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Library's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion, I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

**AUDIT OPINION**

4. In my opinion, the attached financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the National Library as at 30 June 2001 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended and comply with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

**(M. TAUJOO)**  
Director of Audit

Audit Office  
Level 14, Air Mauritius Center  
**Port Louis**  
10 October 2001

# NATIONAL LIBRARY

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2000

TO

30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2001

*1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors  
Fon Sing Building  
12, Edith Cavell Street  
Port -Louis*

*Tel No: 210 -7121/211 -9892*

*Fax No: 210 -7173*

*E-Mail : [natlib@intnet.mu](mailto:natlib@intnet.mu)*

*Website – <http://ncb.intnet.mu/nlibrary/index.htm>*

August 2001



### **7.1 DIRECTORY OF LIBRARIES, DOCUMENTATION CENTRES AND BOOKSHOPS IN MAURITIUS**

A well documented '*Directory of Libraries, Documentation Centres and Bookshops in Mauritius*' was published and launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2000. The idea of compiling the directory was mooted at the inauguration ceremony of the National Library in December 1999.

It was a well known fact that Mauritius had important library resources, which needed only to be identified and made known to the public for their optimum use.

The entries in the Directory were classified according to the types of libraries, namely national, public, special, academic and school. A name index and a subject index based on the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Library of Congress Subject Headings with necessary cross references were included to facilitate the use of the Directory by the public in general.

### **7.2 NATIONAL LIBRARY STAFF HANDBOOK**

A staff handbook, containing laid-down procedures and rules to be followed by National Library staff, has been published with a view to improve efficiency and effectiveness at the National Library. The staff handbook also extends the knowledge among staff of the general principles and work procedures, so as to ensure uniformity of approach, in the same line as that in the public sector.

### **7.3 RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION**

A team of three library staff was assigned the task of writing the collection development policy of the National Library. The work is under progress.

Brochures on specific issues have been written and are being edited for publication such as:

- (i) Disaster Plan
- (ii) Legal Deposit
- (iii) Cataloguing in Publication
- (iv) Copyright

## APPENDICES

### Appendix I

#### THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT 1996

**Act No. 32 of 1996**

I assent

20 December 1996

President of the Republic

C. UTEEM

#### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

##### Sections

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Establishment of the National Library
4. Objects of the Library
5. The Board
6. Meetings of the Board
7. Powers of the Board
8. Director
9. Appointment of staff
10. Protection of members and officers
11. Execution of documents
12. Powers of the Minister
13. Donations
14. Accounts
15. Deposit of copies of books by printer in Library
16. Exemption from duty
17. Regulations
18. Consequential amendments
19. Transitional provisions
20. Commencement

**AN ACT****To provide for the establishment of the National Library**

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius as follows:-

**1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the National Library Act 1996.

**2. Interpretation**

In this Act-

“Board” means the National Library Board established under section 5;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board;

“Director” means the Director of the National Library;

“Library” means the National Library established under section 3;

“library materials” means any form of written or graphic record, including manuscripts, type-scripts, books, newspapers, periodicals, musiccores, photographs, maps, drawings and other graphic art forms, and non-print materials such as films, filmstrips, audio-visual materials including tapes or discs and reproductions thereof;

“Mauritiana section” means the section consisting of library materials -

- (a) relating to any subject and produced in Mauritius; or
- (b) relating to Mauritius and produced overseas.

“member” means a member of the Board and includes the Chairman;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of Arts, Culture and Leisure is assigned.

**3. Establishment of the National Library**

- 1) There is established for the purposes of this Act a National Library.
- 2) The Library shall consist of -
  - (a) the Mauritiana section of the Mauritius Institute Library;
  - (b) the Mauritiana section of the Archives Department.

3) The library materials comprised in the 2 sections referred to in subsection (2) shall, on the commencement of this Act, be transferred to the National Library.

- 4) The National Library shall be a body corporate.

**4. Objects of the Library**

The objects of the Library shall be -

- (a) to promote and encourage the use of library materials;
- (b) to acquire library materials generally, and, in particular, a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Mauritius;
- (c) to collect, receive and preserve all library materials required to be deposited in the Library;
- (d) to lend library materials to the public;

- (e) to make library materials available to the public for reference;
- (f) to participate in planning library services in Mauritius, promote research in library fields and provide assistance in information handling techniques;
- (g) to act as the national bibliographic centre and maintain the national bibliography and other bibliographies;
- (h) to act as an organising agency for national and international lending and exchange of library materials; and
- (i) to initiate and promote co-operation between the Library and other libraries, both local and foreign.

## 5. The Board

- (1) The Library shall be administered and managed by a Board which shall consist of -
- (a) a Chairperson, who shall be a person of academic distinction appointed by the Minister;
  - (b) a representative of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology;
  - (c) a representative of the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Leisure;
  - (d) a representative of the Ministry of Economic Planning, Information and Telecommunications;
  - (e) a representative of the Ministry of Finance;
  - (f) the Director of Archives;
  - (g) the Head of the Library Cadre;
  - (h) 5 librarians as follows -
    - (i) one from academic library;
    - (ii) one from a public library;
    - (iii) one from a special library;
    - (iv) one designated by the Association of Urban Authorities;and
    - (v) one designated by the Association of District Councils.
- (2) The Board may also co-opt such resource persons as it considers necessary to assist it in its deliberations.
- (3) Every member of the Board, other than a member specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g), shall be appointed by the Minister for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

## 6. Meetings of the Board

- (1) The Board shall, at such place and time as the Chairperson may determine, meet -
- (a) at least once month; or
  - (b) whenever a request for a meeting is made by not less than 5 members.
- (2) Nine members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) Subject to this section, the Board shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

## **7. Powers of the Board**

The Board may do all such things as appear requisite and advantageous for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Library and may, in particular –

- (a) raise funds;
- (b) levy fees or charges in respect of the use of library materials by the public;
- (c) buy or sell property;
- (d) receive grants-in-aid, gifts, donations or legacies;
- (e) appoint committees in consultation with the Minister.

## **8. Director**

The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, a Director of the Library who shall be a qualified and experienced librarian possessing high academic status and who shall be responsible for -

- (a) the execution of the policy of the Board;
- (b) the control and management of the day to day business of the Library, including the keeping of all books, records, deeds, documents and minutes of proceedings of the Board.

## **9. Appointment of staff**

- (1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such officers as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions of the Library.
- (2) All officers shall be under the administrative control of the Director.

## **10. Protection of members and officers**

No liability, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member or officer in respect of any act which is done or committed by him in good faith in the furtherance of the objects of the Library.

## **11. Execution of documents**

No documents shall be executed by or on behalf of the Library unless it is signed by -

- (a) the Chairperson or, in his absence, a member designated by the Board; and
- (b) the Director or, in his absence, an officer of the Library designated by the Board.

## **12. Powers of the Minister**

- (1) The Minister may give such directions of a general character to the Board, not inconsistent with the Act, as he considers necessary in the public interest and the Board shall comply with these directions.
- (2) The Board shall, at the request of the Minister, furnish to him such information and such documents in relation to the activities of the Library as he may require.

## **13. Donations**

Article 910 of the Code Napoleon shall not apply to the Library.

**14. Accounts**

- (1) The Board shall, on or before 31 October in every year, submit to the Minister a report together with an audited statement of accounts on the operation of the Library in respect of the 12 months ending 30 June of the same year.
- (2) The report of the Board shall be laid before the National Assembly.

**15. Deposit of copies of library materials**

- (1) There shall, free of charge, be deposited with the Library, in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed -
  - (a) 6 copies of every book;
  - (b) 6 copies of every journal;
  - (c) 6 copies of every issue of every newspaper; and
  - (d) 6 copies of non-print materials,produced in Mauritius.
- (2) The library materials referred to in subsection (1)(a) and (c) shall be deposited by the printer and the library materials referred to in subsection (1)(d) shall be deposited by the producer.

**16. Exemption from duty**

Notwithstanding any other enactment -

- (a) the Library shall be exempt from payment of any duty, levy rate, charge, fee or tax;
- (b) the Library may frank letters or postal packets, make remittances by money orders or dispatch telegrams free of charge.

**17. Regulations**

- (1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as it thinks fit for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Regulations, made under subsection (1) may provide that any person who contravenes them shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 1000 rupees.

**18. Consequential amendments**

- (1) The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act is amended in Part II by adding in its appropriate alphabetical order, the following –  
National Library
- (2) Sections 8-14 of the Archives Act No.71 of 1952 are repealed.
- (3) The auditor to be appointed under section 5(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall be the Director of Audit.

**19. Transitional provisions**

Notwithstanding the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act -

- (a) the period extending from the commencement of this Act to 30 June next following shall be deemed to be the first financial year of the Library;
- (b) section 7(1) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act shall not apply in relation to the first financial year of the Library.

**20. Commencement**

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

Passed by the National Assembly on the seventeenth day of December one thousand nine hundred and ninety six.

ANDRE POMPON  
Clerk of the National Assembly

**SUB COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**(1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001)**1. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 Dr R.S. Lutchmeah
- 1.2 Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
- 1.3 Mrs J. Lan Hing Po (Up to November 2000)
- 1.4 Mr A. Maherally
- 1.5 Mr B. Silarsah
- 1.6 Mr I. Bhugan (As from January 2001)

**2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
- 2.2 Mrs J. Lan Hing Po (Up to November 2000)
- 2.3 Mr A. Maherally
- 2.4 Mr S. Rungassamy
- 2.5 Mr I. Bhugan (As from January 2001)

**3. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 Dr R. S. Lutchmeah
- 3.2 Mrs J. Lan Hing Po (Up to November 2000)
- 3.3 Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
- 3.4 Mr A. Maherally
- 3.5 The Finance Officer
- 3.6 Mr I. Bhugan (As from January 2001)

**4. TENDER COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 Dr. R.S Lutchmeah
- 4.2 Mrs J. Lan Hing Po (Up to November 2000)
- 4.3 Mr Y. Chan Kam Lon
- 4.4 Mr A. Maherally
- 4.5 Mr I. Bhugan (As from January 2001)