



Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives
(SME Division)



ANNUAL REPORT
Financial Year
2025-2026

October 2026

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1.0 ABOUT THE MINISTRY

1.1 INSIGHT OF THE MINISTRY

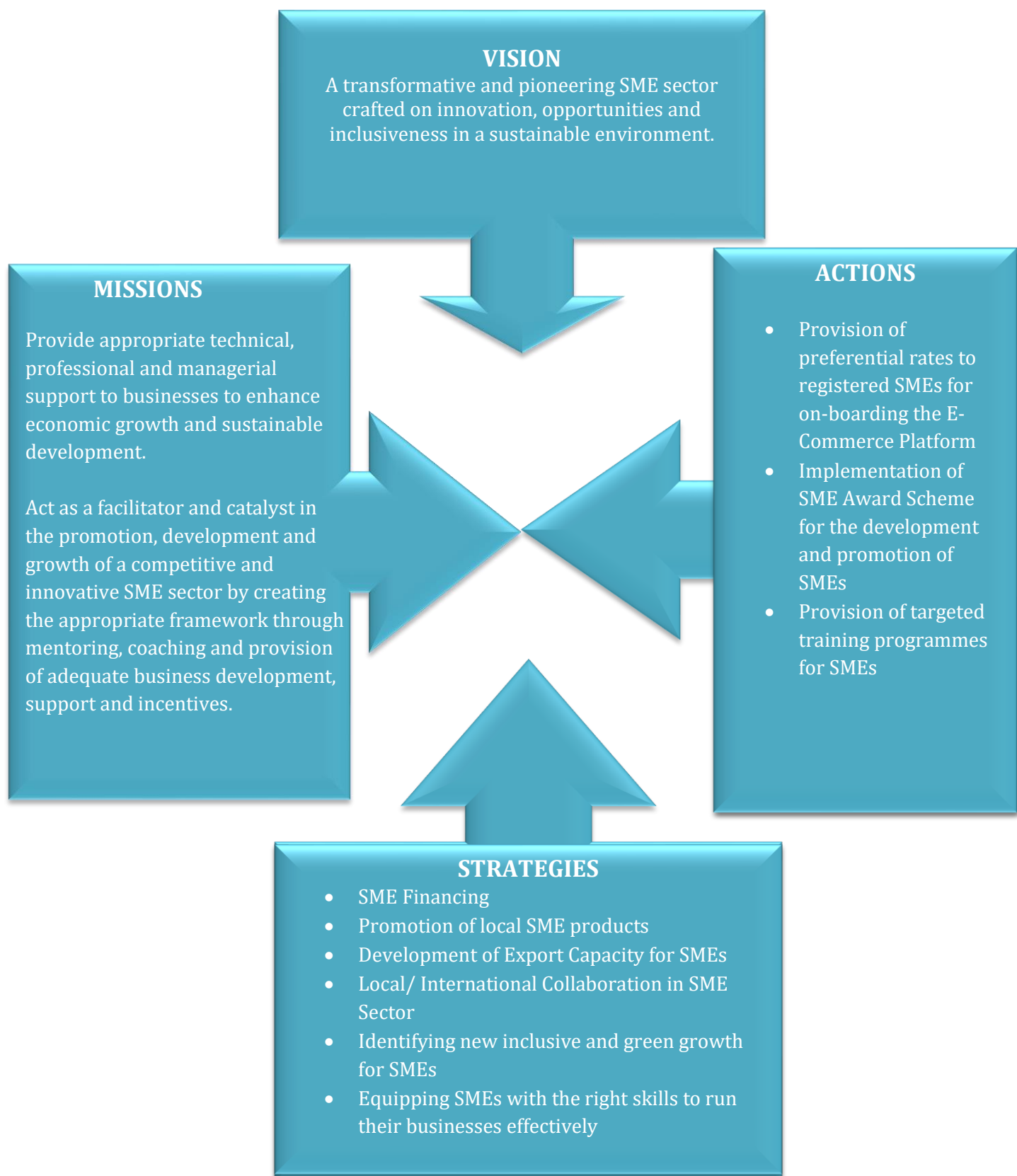
The Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives comprises three Divisions namely the Industry, SME and Cooperatives Divisions respectively. The main activities of the Ministry revolve around formulation of policies pertaining to Industrial Development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives.

The Industry Division acts as a facilitator and catalyst for the development of a resilient, vibrant and competitive manufacturing sector with a view to fostering employment creation and wealth generation for higher economic growth.

The SME Division is responsible for the design and formulation of policies and schemes while ensuring that there is appropriate and adequate provision of support and facilities to existing enterprises as well as encouraging creation of new businesses.

The Cooperatives Division facilitates the promotion of diversified, emerging and innovative cooperatives and involvement of more young persons and women in the development, consolidation and advancement of the cooperative movement.

1.1.1 SME DIVISION



1.2 Message from the Hon. Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives



It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives for the financial year 2025/2026.

This year has been one of purpose and direction. It has marked an important stage in our efforts to reposition industry, entrepreneurship and our cooperatives at the heart of Mauritius' economic future. As the global economy continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, our responsibility is not merely to respond to change, but to prepare our country to thrive within it.

Mauritius operates in an increasingly complex international environment. Geopolitical tensions, disruptions to global supply chains, rising production costs and rapid technological advances continue to reshape the competitive landscape. These challenges remind us that sustainable prosperity cannot rely solely on consumption or external demand. It must be built on our own capacity to produce, innovate, compete and export.

This conviction has guided the work of my Ministry throughout the year. Our objective has been clear: to lay the foundations of a stronger, more resilient and production-oriented economy capable of creating quality employment, generating higher value-added activities and expanding opportunities for Mauritian enterprises.

Industry remains a strategic pillar of this national ambition. A competitive manufacturing sector not only drives exports and investment but also strengthens economic resilience and supports thousands of businesses across our economy. Our commitment is therefore to create the right environment for industry to modernise, embrace innovation and compete successfully in regional and international markets.

During the year, we continued our close engagement with manufacturers, exporters, business associations and development partners to ensure that Government policies remain firmly aligned with the realities of the productive sector. These consultations have reinforced the importance of a modern industrial framework capable of responding to today's challenges while anticipating tomorrow's opportunities.

This work is now translating into meaningful reforms. Government has initiated the preparation of a new Industry Bill that will provide a modern legislative framework for industrial development and export promotion. At the same time, the Industrial Sector Strategic Plan 2026–2030, being developed with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), will establish a long-term roadmap for transforming Mauritius into a more competitive and higher value-added manufacturing economy.

One of the most significant announcements of the Budget 2026–2027 is the creation of the Mauritius Industry and Export Development Agency. This dedicated institution reflects Government's determination to place manufacturing and exports at the centre of our development strategy.

Technology will play a defining role in this transformation. Artificial intelligence, automation, digitalisation and advanced manufacturing are reshaping industries across the world. Mauritius must embrace these changes if it is to remain competitive. My Ministry is therefore committed to promoting innovation, productivity and technological adoption across our industrial ecosystem while encouraging investment in higher value-added production.

The Budget has further strengthened this vision through measures designed to stimulate productive investment. The extension of the Investment Tax Credit for manufacturing investments, together with incentives supporting investment in machinery, artificial intelligence and patents, demonstrates Government's long-term commitment to industrial modernisation and competitiveness.

Small and Medium Enterprises remain central to our economic development. They are a driving force for innovation, employment and entrepreneurship across every region of our country. During the year, my Ministry continued to roll out the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP), a flagship initiative aimed at nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset and encouraging more Mauritians to embrace entrepreneurship as a pathway to innovation, self-employment and economic opportunity. Looking ahead, the forthcoming SME Bill, together with improvements in business facilitation, enhanced digital services and stronger support for start-ups, will further strengthen our ambition to help Mauritian entrepreneurs grow, innovate and integrate into regional and global value chains.

The cooperative movement continues to represent another important pillar of inclusive development. Cooperatives contribute not only to economic activity but also to community empowerment, food security and shared prosperity. Government remains committed to modernising the sector through improved governance, greater transparency and initiatives that strengthen market access for cooperative products while encouraging value addition and entrepreneurship.

None of these reforms can succeed without partnership. The transformation of our productive economy requires the collective efforts of Government, the private sector, workers, development partners and civil society. I have always believed that lasting progress is achieved when policy is shaped through dialogue and implemented through collaboration.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Honourable Prime Minister for his confidence and leadership, to my Cabinet colleagues, the Permanent Secretary, the management and staff of the Ministry, our parastatal organisations and all stakeholders whose dedication and professionalism have contributed to the progress achieved during the year.

The journey towards industrial transformation is a long-term undertaking. The foundations are now being laid through important legislative reforms, stronger institutions and a renewed focus on production, exports and innovation. I am confident that, together, we can build an economy that is more productive, more competitive and better prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Our ambition is to position Mauritius as a dynamic production hub where industry prospers, enterprises innovate, exports grow and economic development creates lasting opportunities for every Mauritian. That is the vision that will continue to guide the work of my Ministry in the years ahead.

**Honourable AMEER MEEA Sayed Muhammad Aadil,
Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperative**

1.3 Statement from Permanent Secretary



It is indeed a privilege and honour for me to be associated with the publication of my final Annual Report as Permanent Secretary, at the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME Division) for the period 2025-2026, after 44 years of long and faithful service to the nation in the Public Service.

I also have immense pleasure to confer my appreciation of the contribution and commitment of the staff of the SME Division and SME Mauritius Ltd in their endeavour towards implementation of projects and schemes of the Ministry in a very professional and efficient manner, which indeed added the value to the mandate of Ministry

I wish to pay tribute to the vibrant collaboration between the Ministry and its main partners, especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The period 2025-2026 came with its challenges, even more daunting than the previous years and their aftershocks, namely post covid economic situation as well as the challenges posed by the USA, which are still sending severe blows on the economy.

The war on Ukraine was an eye opener for our economy, especially to enhance our sustainability as it had already impacted on our imports of some cereals, whilst it is affecting the economies of our major trading partners, namely the European Union. The imported inflation was coupled with high uncertainty levels.

However, the war on Iran in February 2026 sent global shockwaves in the energy market leading to major crises such as increasing freight charges, rising fuel costs and cost of imports as well as fall in attractiveness of our exports due to increase in price of raw materials, which are mostly imported. The resulting consequences have not only impacted the global supply chain, but they came as a major disruption in the ways of doing business. The new normal had to be rewritten considering the "4F crisis", as rightly highlighted by India's Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar namely: **Food, Fuel, Fertilisers, and Finance**.

Nonetheless, every challenge also comes with opportunities. The considerable rise in energy cost has been a major jolt and catalyst to accelerate our transition towards renewable energy in order to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel, Mauritius being a net importer of fuel. The abundance of sunlight in Mauritius for at least 300 days a year is a non-negligible factor in the energy mix. I am particularly glad to note that the SME Division has been instrumental in helping our SMEs acquire solar energy production facilities and I am sure we will still be part of this energy equation.

As Government pursues its reform agenda of our economy in order to reduce the huge public debt legacy and the dwindling exchange rate of the Mauritian Rupee *vis-à-vis* the US dollar, Euro and other currencies of our major trading partners, we note the laudable initiative of our Minister in securing extension of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which is proving highly beneficial for our local textile and our export sectors.

As I complete my mandate, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Minister, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Assistant Secretaries the Manager Human Resources, the Assistant Manager, Financial Operations, Advisors, ALL the staff of the Technical Cadre and the Ministry as a whole for their invaluable collaboration and utmost respect conferred towards me.

I also extend my warmth regard to the new Permanent Secretary of the SME Division, namely Mr. Ramesh Bheekhoo, whom, I am sure, has been welcomed by the dedicated collaboration of the staff of the SME Division.

I sincerely wish for the continued and fruitful collaboration with the SME sector coupled with the mandate of SME Mauritius Ltd, in crafting out the appropriate futuristic policies during these highly volatile and testing times.

Raj Kishore Bunjun
Permanent Secretary

2.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE SME DIVISION

The Division acts as a regulator and facilitator within its basic core values of effective administration: Teamwork, Trust, Transparency, Transformation and Timeliness.



2.1 OUR STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS

Devise, formulate, review and implement strategic policies relating to SMEs
Identify projects, programs and activities for the development and promotion of SMEs
Facilitate and coordinate research relating to development of SMEs through

Facilitate access to financial resources and other productive resources for SMEs
Coordinate with supporting partners and relevant stakeholders in the fulfilment of our objectives
Assist in the initiatives of public sector agencies

Facilitate networking among SMEs and development of linkages between large enterprises and SMEs
Collaborate with local and international agencies dealing with SMEs for their development through capacity building programs, among others
Collaborate in entrepreneurship activities carried out by public sector agencies and the private sector

2.2 Units of the SME Division



2.3 ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

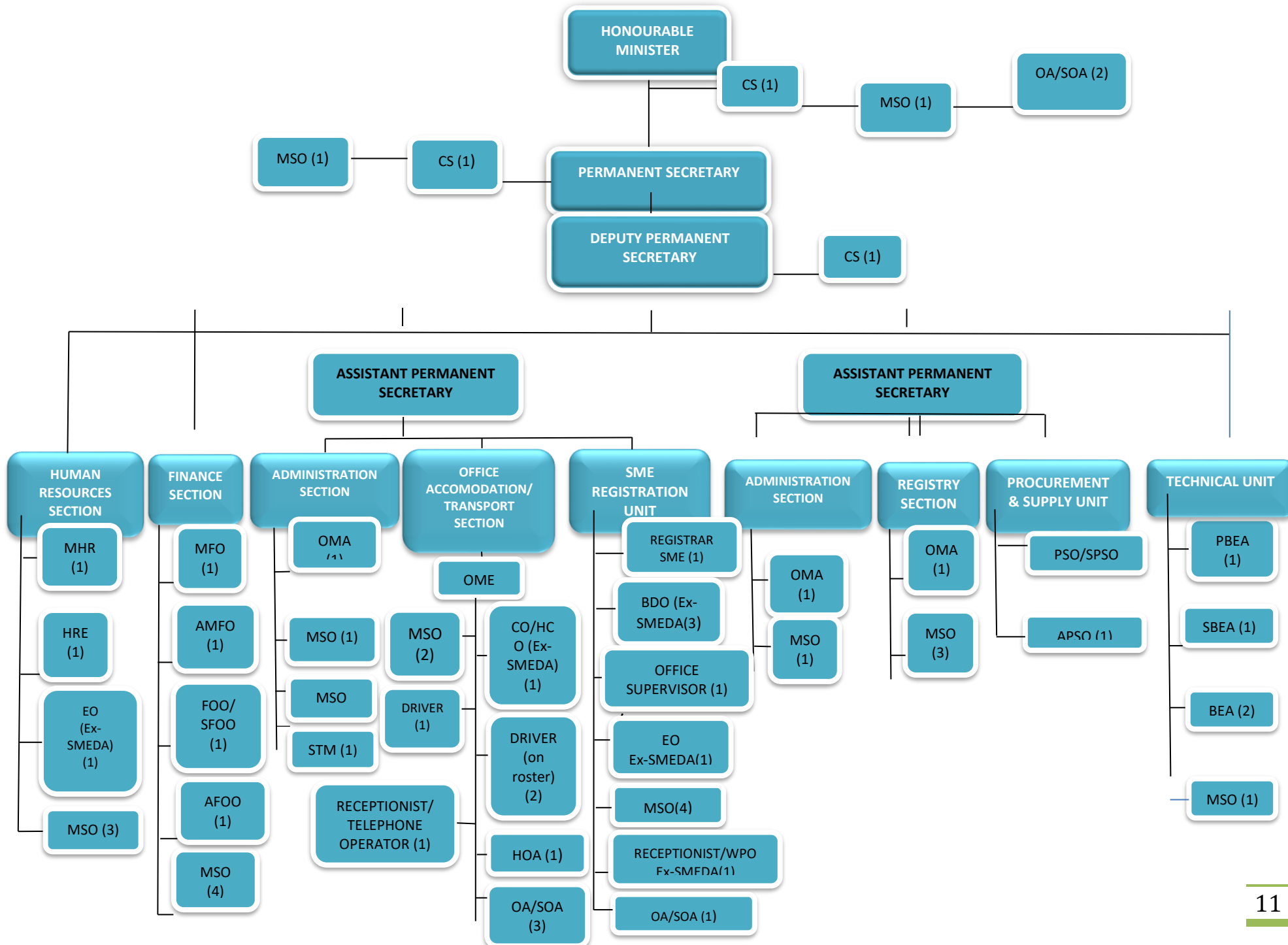
Our People

The Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer as well as the Responsible Officer of the Ministry. He is assisted by a Deputy Permanent Secretary and two Assistant Secretaries. One post of Assistant Secretary is presently vacant. The Technical Unit is headed by a Principal Business and Enterprise Analyst and is supported by technical staff in the grade of Senior Business and Enterprise Analyst and Business and Enterprise Analyst. The SME Registration Unit is the operational arm of the Ministry and is to be headed by the Registrar, SME. Support services are provided by officers of the Human Resources Cadre, Finance Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre, General Services and by employees of the Workmen's Group.



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, SME AND COOPERATIVES (SME DIVISION)

ORGANISATION CHART



2.4 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Designation	Name	Tel. No	E-mail address
ADMINISTRATION			
Permanent Secretary	Mr Raj Kishore BUNJUN	Phone: 405 3157 (thro' CS) Fax: 214 4152	rbunjun@govmu.org
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mr Muhammad Ziyaad MADARBOKUS	Phone: 405 3129 (thro' CS) Fax: 213 9169	mzmadarbokus@govmu.org
Assistant Secretary	Mrs Nirma Devi ARJUNAN	Phone: 405 3118 Fax: 213 9176	narjunan@govmu.org
HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION			
Manager, Human Resources	Mr Abdool Shamad BHEEKHOO	Phone: 405 3113 Fax: 2141487	abheekhoo@govmu.org
FINANCE SECTION			
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	Ms Soontanah Bibi RAMDEEN	Phone: 405 3131 Fax: 213 9159	sramdeen@govmu.org
OFFICE ACCOMODATION/TRANSPORT SECTION			
Office Management Executive	Mr Sanjiv JAHAJEEAH	Phone: 405 3126 Fax: 213 9176	sajahajeeah@govmu.org
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SECTION			
Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	Mr Vikash JEEWOOTH	Phone: 405 3116 Fax: 214 4154	vjeewooth@govmu.org
REGISTRY			
Office Supervisor	Mrs Jemima BHANTOO	Phone: 405 3120 Fax: 213 9176	jebhantoo@govmu.org
TECHNICAL UNIT			
Principal Business and Enterprise Analyst	Miss Thaneshwaree RAMNARAIN	Phone: 405 3149	tramnarain@govmu.org
SME REGISTRATION UNIT			
Officer in Charge	Mrs Bhooneshwaree BHUNDOO	Phone: 202 0042 Fax: 212 5760	bbhundoo@govmu.org
Business Development Officer (Ex-SMEDA)	Mr Lorga Pragessen SORNUM Mr Soobeeraj NOWBUTSING	Phone: 202 0050	lsornum@govmu.org snowbutsing@govmu.org

Table 1: List of Head of Sections

2.5 Human Resources

1. Human Resource and Gender Distribution

The classification of the workforce across hierarchy levels at the Ministry is as follows:

Staff in Post (July 2026)	Number	Male	Female
Top Management (Salary $\geq$ Rs 110,000)	1	1	0
Middle Management (Rs 47,000 $\leq$ Salary < Rs 110,000)	17	8	9
Support (Salary < Rs 47,000)	43	14	29
Overall	61	23	38

Table 2: Gender Distribution

Movement of Staff

- One (1) Deputy Permanent Secretary who was assigned the duties of Permanent Secretary was appointed Permanent Secretary in a substantive capacity with effect from 25 July 2025.
- One (1) Senior Business and Enterprise Analyst was promoted to the grade of Principal Business and Enterprise Analyst with effect from 11 September 2025.
- One (1) Business and Enterprise Analyst was promoted to the grade of Senior Business and Enterprise Analyst with effect from 11 September 2025.
- One (1) officer in the grade of Office Management Assistant has retired from the service on ground of age as a special case on 04 March 2026.
- One (1) Assistant Secretary has been appointed to the grade of Deputy Permanent Secretary with effect from 17 June 2026.

2.6.1 Gender Distribution

The gender distribution of staff of the SME Division is as follows:

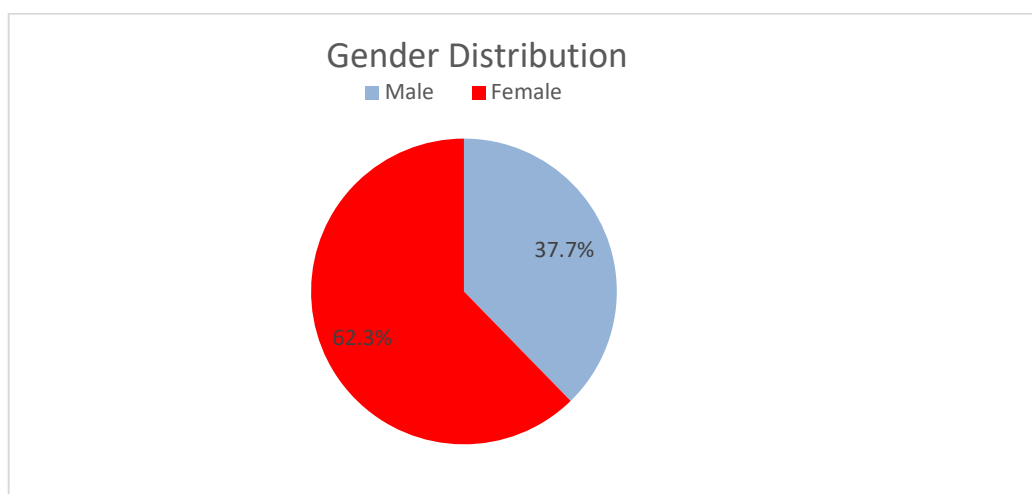


Figure 3: Employees Gender Distribution

2.7 Training

During Financial Year 2025/2026, 66 officers attended training locally and 8 other officers attended training abroad (in-person or online) as detailed below.

Table 1: Local Training attended by Officers of the Ministry

Local Training

Local Training	Number of officers	Total Number of officers trained FY 2025/2026
Training courses run at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (paid by SME Division)		22
• Advanced Excel	5	
• Interpersonal Communication Skill	2	
• Public Finance & Budget Preparation	2	
• Writing Effective Minutes of Meeting	5	
• Mastering Telephone Skills	2	
• Registry Procedures	1	
• Organisational Excellence	1	
• Risk Management	2	
• Data Analysis and Report Writing	1	
• Negotiation and Mediation Skills	1	
Training courses sponsored by the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms		7
• Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management for Fire Wardens	2	
• Two-day training programme on Managing safely for line Managers (Officer-in-Charge of Units/Sections)	1	
• Safety and Health in the workplace for OMA	1	
• Safety and Health in the Workplace for MSOs	2	
• Safety and Health in the Workplace for OAs/SOAs	1	
Training courses held at AIPSI and sponsored by the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms		42
• Level 4 - Strategic Management and AI Programme	7	
• Level 3 - Operational Leadership Programme	4	
• Level 2 - Smart Processes and Service Excellence	20	
• Level 1-Basic Information and Technology Skills and Safe Work Practices	6	
• Induction course for Office Supervisors	1	
• Foundation course for newly recruited MSO	4	
Workshop/Training organised by other Ministries/Institutions		2
• Programme on Climate Change under the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) 2050 (Ministry of Environment Solid Waste Management & Climate Change)	1	
• Training on Artificial Intelligence (Statistics Mauritius)	1	
Total		66

2.8 Overseas Training

Table 2: Overseas Training attended by Officers of the Ministry

Course held	Number of officers	Total Number of officers trained FY 2025/2026
		7
SMEs Public-Private Dialogue Forum, Johannesburg, S.Africa	1	
4th edition of the African Start up Conference, Algeria - 1	1	
AARDO - Participation in the International Policy Roundtable on “Local Governance and Rural Development”, Monrovia, Liberia - 1	1	
IITM - AARDO Rural Technology towards Improving lives in Rural areas with the use of Science & Technology, Chennai, India - 1	1	
Seminar on Development and Management of Service outsourcing for Developing Countries, China - 2	2	
Seminar on Human Resources Development for Mauritius, Nanchang, China - 1	1	
Online training AARDO - Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving Sustainable Rural Development Goals	1	1
Total		8

2.9 ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT THE MINISTRY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STAFF WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Diwali Celebration – October 2025



2.10 Handing over of Certificates to Grade 12 (Lower Six) students for School Placement Programme - November 2025



2.11 Participation in Civil Service Kermesse – 20 November 2025



Participation in Civil Service Kermesse – 20 November 2025



2.12 Sensitisation Workshop on Gender Awareness, Ambre Hotel - 15 December 2025



Winners of 1st Prize Domino Competition

2.13 Retirement of MFO and OMA



**Retirement of Mrs Savita BOODHNA,
Manager, Financial Operations
02 March 2026**



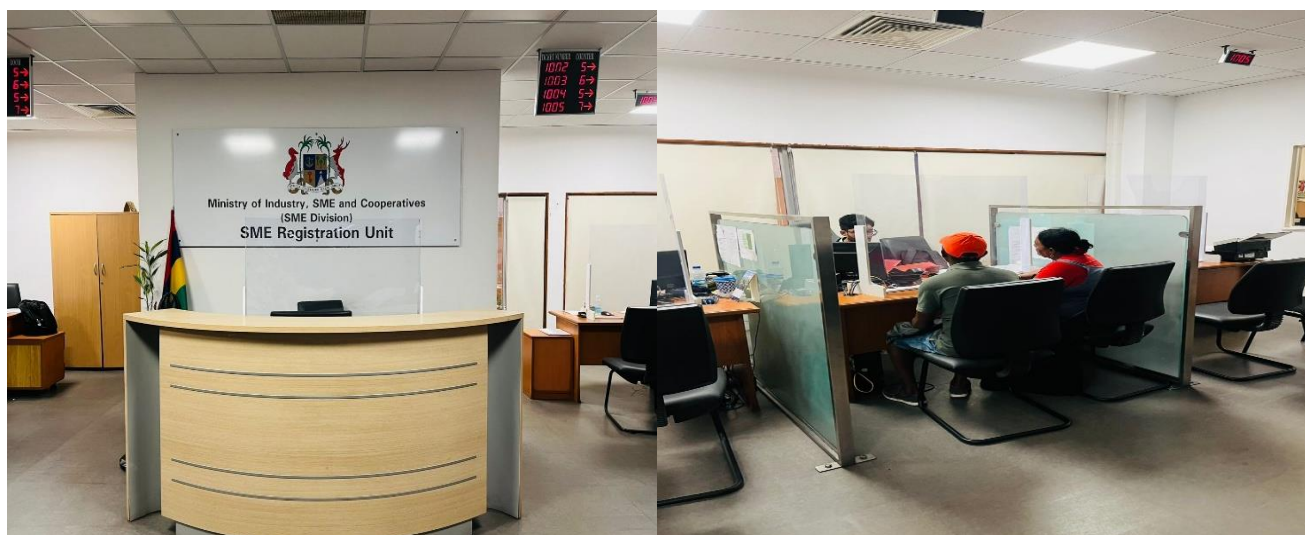
**Retirement of Mrs Lalita BUNDHOOA,
Office Management Assistant
04 March 2026**

2.14 Celebrating Independence Day and International Women's Day – 11 March 2026



3.0 SME REGISTRATION UNIT

The SME Registration Unit was set up following the promulgation of the SME Act 2017 on 18 January 2018. The Unit is responsible for the registration of Micro, Small, Medium and Mid-Market Enterprises. It also provides support and information to facilitate the obtaining of any registration, permit, licence, authorisation or clearance which an enterprise may require.



A new IT Integrated System for SMEs has been in operation since 13 August 2025 and SMEs are now registering through Maupass. For the Financial Year 2025-2026, 3890 Registration Certificates have been issued.

Incentives, Facilities and Support Services to Micro, Small and Medium enterprises

Registered SMEs are eligible to the following incentives, facilities and support services:

- i. Concessionary rate of interests on loan at DBM Ltd;
- ii. Exemption from custom duty on double space cabin;
- iii. Exemption from Land Conversion Tax;
- iv. Road Tax at concessionary rate with the National Land Transport Authority;
- v. 4-year holiday tax from the Mauritius Revenue Authority;
- vi. Margin of preference of 40% to local SMEs having an annual turnover not exceeding MUR100 million; and
- vii. Support schemes offered by the SME Mauritius Ltd

3.1 Data and graphical interpretation for the number of registered SMEs by Gender from the Year 2021-2025

Table 1 - Number of registered SMEs by gender for the year 2021 - 2025					
Number of registered SMEs	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Male	4,122	1,985	1,990	2,301	2,495
Female	3,026	1,828	1,587	1,588	1,628
Total registered SMEs	7,148	3,813	3,577	3,889	4123

Figure 1 - Number of registered SMEs by gender for the year 2021 - 2025



Table 1 and Figure 1 outline the total number of SMEs that has been registered at the SME Registration Unit of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME Division) for the period 2021 to 2025. The highest number of registrations remains in the year 2021 with a total of 7,148 SMEs. This relatively high increase, which is important to point out, is due to various support schemes provided by Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) in order to assist SMEs after the pandemic COVID-19.

3.2 Data and graphical representation for the number of Registered SMEs by Category from the year 2021 to 2025

Figure 2 - Number of registrations by SMEs category for the year 2021 - 2025

SMEs category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Micro	4,827	2,860	3,364	3,652	3,896
Small	2,037	875	141	158	148
Medium	284	78	65	71	74
Mid-Market	0	0	7	8	5
Total SMEs category	7,148	3,813	3,577	3,889	4,123

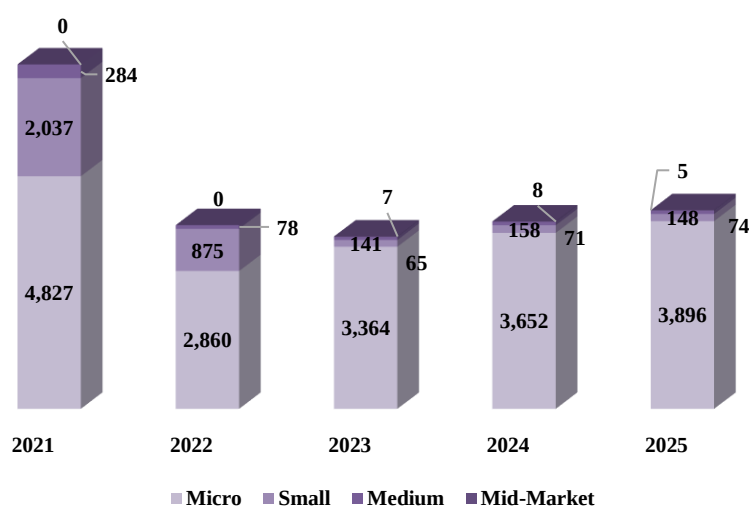


Table 2 and Figure 2 show the total number of registrations as per size of enterprise which is categorised as Micro, Small, Medium and Mid-Market for the period 2021 to 2025. Among all the SMEs categories, registered SMEs are mostly from Micro enterprise businesses, with a total of 3,896 for the year 2025. Followed by Micro enterprise, for the year 2025, Small businesses have registered 148. The least registered entrepreneurs are from Mid-Market which has registered only 8 enterprises in the year 2025.

Data for the number of registered SMEs by gender (July 2025 –June 2026)

Table 3 - Number of registered SMEs by gender for the Financial Year (July 2025 – June 2026)

Number of registered SMEs	Mauritius	Rodrigues	Total	Percentage (%)
Male	2,329	20	2,349	60
Female	1,510	31	1,541	40
Total registrations	3,839	51	3,890	100

For the Financial Year 2025-2026, a total of 3,890 SMEs were registered for the Republic of Mauritius where 3, 839 for Mauritius and 51 for Rodrigues. There were 2,349 registrations for male entrepreneurs and 1,541 for female entrepreneurs, including 20 and 31 respectively for Rodrigues. In general, male entrepreneurs are the highest compared to female, accounted to 61% against 39 % respectively.

Furthermore, the total number of **active SME Registration Certificates** stood at **22,733** from July 2021 to June 2026.

Data on the number of registered SMEs by industry group for the year 2021 – 2025

Table 4 - Number of registered SMEs by industry group for the year 2021 - 2025

Industry group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)	529	273	243	214	179	1,438
Mining and quarrying (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing (C)	1,600	1,196	1,207	1,199	1,139	6,341
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D)	1	-	-	-	2	3
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E)	3	-	1	-	5	9
Construction (F)	664	355	436	531	458	2,444
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G)	2,437	945	712	688	913	5,695
Transportation and storage (H)	172	61	43	26	43	345
Accommodation and food service activities (I)	262	121	161	173	266	983
Information and communication (J)	146	123	109	125	129	632
Financial and insurance activities (K)	12	12	8	15	13	60

Real estate activities (L)	32	20	21	15	26	114
Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)	313	203	198	309	256	1,279
Administrative and support service activities (N)	271	182	161	248	272	1,134
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security (O)	-	-	-	1	1	2
Education (P)	82	48	30	46	38	244
Human health and social work activities (Q)	6	4	16	19	32	77
Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)	98	42	29	35	59	263
Other service activities (S)	519	228	202	245	292	1,486
Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use (T)	1	-	-	-	-	1
Activities of extra territorial organisations and bodies (U)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total registration for all industry groups	7,148	3,813	3,577	3,889	4,123	22,550

Table 4 shows the total number of 22,550 registrations by Industry Group for the Republic of Mauritius for the year 2021 - 2025.

The Manufacturing sector has the highest number of registrations with a total of 6,341 enterprises, followed by the wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector 5,695. Among the least registered sector are Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use, Public administration and defence, compulsory social security and Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply with 1, 2 and 3 registration respectively.

Number of Visitors

Table 5 - Number of visitors for the year 2021 – June 2026

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Jan 2026 to June 2026
Number of visitors attended	5,968	3,653	5,032	5,776	5603	1751

3.3 Main Legislations

The SME sector operates within the framework of the Small and Medium Enterprises Act 2017. Registration Certificates are issued within **7 working days** after duly completed applications are received in accordance with provisions of the amended SME Act 2017;

Monitoring of Key Performance Indicators 2025/2026

Table 6 – Monitoring of Key Performance Indicators for the year 2025/2026

Programmes	Outcomes	Indicators	2025/26 Target	2025/26 Provisional
2102: SME Development	Increased contribution of the SME Sector in the economy	Annual percentage increase in SME registration (Registration @ 30 June 2025: 23629)	10%	15.2% (As at 10 June 2026)

3.4 Awareness Campaign

The SME Division, in collaboration with the SME Registration Unit, actively participated at the events listed below with a view to raising awareness on the importance and benefits of SME registration, as well as facilitating the registration process for prospective entrepreneurs and existing informal businesses:

- “**Le Grand Salon de L’industrie Locale et du Savoir-Faire Mauricien**” which was held at SVICC, Pailles from 27 to 29 March 2026, whereby around 60 persons attended (including 27 women).
- The “**Open Day/Cultural Event**”, scheduled from **18 to 19 April 2026** the State House, Le Reduit with a participation of 49 persons including 21 those led by women entrepreneurs.
- **The Ocean Week**, organised by the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (Blue Economy and Fisheries Division), was held on Wednesday **6 May 2026** at the Caudan Art Centre and was attended by nine participants.

During these events, a booth was allocated and officers provided on-the-spot guidance, responded to queries, and assisted applicants in completing and submitting their registration forms. Relevant information on procedures, eligibility criteria, and required documentation was also disseminated to ensure that participants were adequately informed and supported throughout the process.

3.5 Enhancing the visibility of the SME Registration Unit

With a view to further enhancing the visibility of the Unit and encouraging entrepreneurs operating in the informal sector to formalise their activities, a series of targeted promotional initiatives were undertaken to improve outreach and awareness of available support services.

These initiatives included the printing and distribution of informational posters and flyers, which were strategically disseminated to key institutional partners, namely the CAB Office, Mauritius Post Ltd, and SME Mauritius Ltd. This approach was aimed at ensuring wide circulation of relevant information to potential entrepreneurs.

In addition, a roll-up banner was prominently displayed at the Corporate and Business Registration Department as well as at the District Council of Savanne, thereby strengthening on-site visibility and reinforcing awareness among visitors engaging with public services.

4.0 Achievements of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME Division)

Implementation of an Integrated IT System for SMEs in Mauritius

The SME Division of this Ministry had embarked on an Integrated IT System for SMEs. The project aims at harmonising all data available on SMEs on a common platform and obtaining real time data and statistics to enhance service delivery and to enable policy makers to devise and formulate effective policies for SMEs.

The project was awarded to **State Informatics Ltd (SIL)**, the successful bidder on 30 August 2024.

The project was successfully implemented and went live on **13 August 2025**.

4.1 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives of the Republic of Mauritius and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of India

In March 2025, the SME Division signed an MoU with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of India for cooperation in the following;

-  technical assistance for organisations/institutes/MSMEs in the Republic of Mauritius in the projects/sectors mutually decided between both countries;
-  capacity building for development of policy and institutional framework through exchange of experts for the development of MSMEs in the Republic of Mauritius;
-  partnership projects and cooperation between institutions in both countries, as well as between business enterprises;

- ✚ training for improvement of managerial and technical skills for MSMEs; and
- ✚ organising exhibitions and trade fairs in the Republic of India and the Republic of Mauritius for marketing the products of MSMEs, and also for displaying the latest machineries and equipment, as well as material inputs required by MSMEs for their production operations.

4.2 Report on Technical Assistance to Further Enhance the Development of the Leather Value Chain in Mauritius

In June 2025, the SME Division went on to finalise a Report on Technical Assistance to Further Enhance the Development of the Leather Value Chain in Mauritius, which has been prepared by the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI).

The report presents a comprehensive assessment of the leather value chain in Mauritius, whilst proposing targeted interventions to reposition the sector as a competitive, export-oriented contributor to national industrial diversification so that Mauritius can unlock the latent potential of its leather sector with a view to creating jobs, reducing import dependency, and positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainable, high-value leather goods.

A Validation Workshop was held in June 2025 in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) at the Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava.

To ensure follow-up, a Steering Committee would be established at the SME Division, comprising representatives from the Mauritius Standards Bureau, the Academy of Design and Innovation, and other key stakeholders, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the report.

4.3 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme

With a view to encouraging potential and new SMEs to take full advantage of these benefits and work towards realising their growth potential, SME Mauritius Ltd, which falls under the aegis of this Division, organises Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAP) around the island.

EAP held as at June 2026

S/N	Region	Date
1.	Plaza, Rose-Hill	26 August 2025
2.	Rodrigues	15 June 2026

The main objective of the events was to inspire and inform aspiring entrepreneurs and also new entrepreneurs about the vast opportunities available in the field of entrepreneurship, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to start and grow their businesses.

Moreover, forming part of the social entrepreneurship initiatives of SME Mauritius, the EAPs served as a confidence building exercise that could promote inclusiveness and empowerment, whereby participants could express themselves and discuss freely on their business ideas and the projected way forward.

The duration of the each EAPs was around three hours and comprised:

- Distribution of Business startup checklists and practicals;
- Information on “how to start a business”;
- Information on training opportunities available;
- Interactive desks for one-to-one guidance; and
- Distribution of initiation packs.

An EAP was held in Salle des Fêtes, Plaza, Rose-Hill for the central region in August 2025, with a participation of 450 persons. The main objective of the events was to inspire and inform aspiring entrepreneurs and also new entrepreneurs about the vast opportunities available in the field of entrepreneurship, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to start and grow their businesses.

An EAP was also held in Rodrigues on 15 June 2026, which was organised by SME Mauritius Ltd, with the aim to provide specific groups, such as women and youth with the necessary information and assistance to channel their skills and competencies into business ventures for self-employment and economic independence. Rodriguan entrepreneurs were informed of all the benefits, schemes/grants that they would be entitled to as a registered SME. They were also exposed to the fiscal facilities offered to them such as concessionary DBM loans, customs duty exemption on specified vehicles, land conversion tax exemption for industrial relocation or expansion, concessionary road tax, a four-year tax holiday for new qualifying

small companies and a margin of preference of up to 40 percent in public procurement for local SMEs with turnover not exceeding Rs 100 million.

4.4 COOPERATIVES MARKET FAIR AT QUATRES-BORNES

The Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, allotted stalls to SMEs to participate in the Market fair of Quatre-Bornes as from March 2025. The Fair is held twice a month, every first and third Mondays of the month. The SMEs registered to participate in the fair are involved in the sale of the following products:

- Textile and Garments
- Food and pastries
- Handicraft products
- Plants and vegetables

The stalls are offered free of charge to them to display and market their products at the fair. The latest figure shows the participation of **74** SMEs including 62 women.

5.0 SME- E-Directory

The Ministry embarked on the introduction of an online Business Directory of SMES categorized by sector and district to enable business community and the public to easily, contact, locate and interact via online technology. This Directory has been conceptualized in categories (31) of activities and on district wise basis and it is live since 5 September 2022. The SME e-Directory:

Presents as a practical tool for ventilation of information on SMEs

Gives users timely and coherent information

Acts as cost effective way to build a presence on the local market place

Is available to the public on a 24/7 basis

Provides a global reach

Helps in promoting the activities of SMEs and also provide them with an online presence

Depicts the initiative of the Ministry to bring SMEs under one single platform as a way of promotion

The latest figure shows the listing of **11260** as at June 2026 SMEs on the e-Directory portal.

6.0 SITE VISITS TO ENTERPRISES

Site visits are effected to take stock of operational activities of SMEs registered and also difficulties they are facing with a view to helping formulation of appropriate policies to address these issues.

Site visits are also effected when there is request from a company to import foreign labour and also when SMEs make application to benefit from exemption of custom duties on space cabin vehicles and all single cabin vehicles for transportation of raw materials and finished goods.

During the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, a total of **11** site visits were conducted by Business Development Officers of the SME Registration Unit and Business and Enterprise Analysts of the SME Division.

7.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FY 2024/2025

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2024/2025	Achievement at 30 June 2025	Remarks
SME Division	Facilitate the development of SMEs	Number of SMEs Registered	25,000	29,215	Target achieved
		Number of jobs created by newly registered SMEs	2,300	2,977 (as per monitoring)	Target achieved

8.0 OVERVIEW OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE OPERATING UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE MINISTRY

SME Mauritius Ltd is a private company wholly owned by the Government of Mauritius, incorporated in July 2017. It is responsible for the empowerment of SMEs to help them emerge and grow by implementing support programs that enhance their competitiveness.

9.0 RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

9.1 ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME Division) is committed to maintaining the highest level of integrity in the conduct of its affairs through the adoption of appropriate corruption prevention strategies.

It is, in this context, that an Anti-Corruption Policy (ACP) was formulated at the level of this Division in December 2016, setting out its full commitment for the detection of corruption and for adherence to a culture of integrity.

For the purpose of ensuring sound implementation of this policy, the SMEs Division ensures through its Anti-Corruption Committee that:

- + employees have sufficient knowledge concerning the Anti-Corruption Policy (ACP) and that it is applied to all undertakings;
- + adequate controls are in place to counteract corruption are known and used within the organization; and
- + there are clear procedures and systems for handling suspected cases of corruption.

Status as at 30 September 2025

- + The ‘‘No Gift Policy ‘’ has already been affixed on the wall in all Departments and at the reception counter of the SMEs Division.

10.0 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

10.1 Control over Non-Financial Assets

The Ministry has put in place adequate control over non-financial assets in order to ensure judicious use of public funds.

10.2 Risk Management Framework

Since 31st July 2025, the SME Division has finalised its Risk Management Framework, which has already been transmitted to the National Audit Office and Internal Control Unit



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

2025 - 2026

11.1

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In accordance with Budget Estimates 2025-2026, the Ministry of Industry, SME & Cooperatives (SME Division) had for the Financial Year one Programme under its control namely 2102: SME Development. An amount of Rs 211.1M was provided to the Ministry (SME Division) in Budget 2025/2026 out of which Rs 205.2 M was spent.

11.2 ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHANGES

Allowance to Minister is now funded under Programme 2101: Industrial Development. The overall Budgetary allocation of the Ministry has increased from 130.40 M in financial year 2024/2025 to 211.1 M in financial year 2025/2026 mainly due to the increase in Recurrent grant following the financing of grant – SME Support Schemes previously funded under the National Resilience Fund in the Budget of the Ministry.

11.3 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

The Statement of Expenditure has been prepared according to the data obtained from the Treasury Accounting System (TAS).

Table below provides a summary of total expenditure incurred by the SME Division under Programme 2102: SME Development.

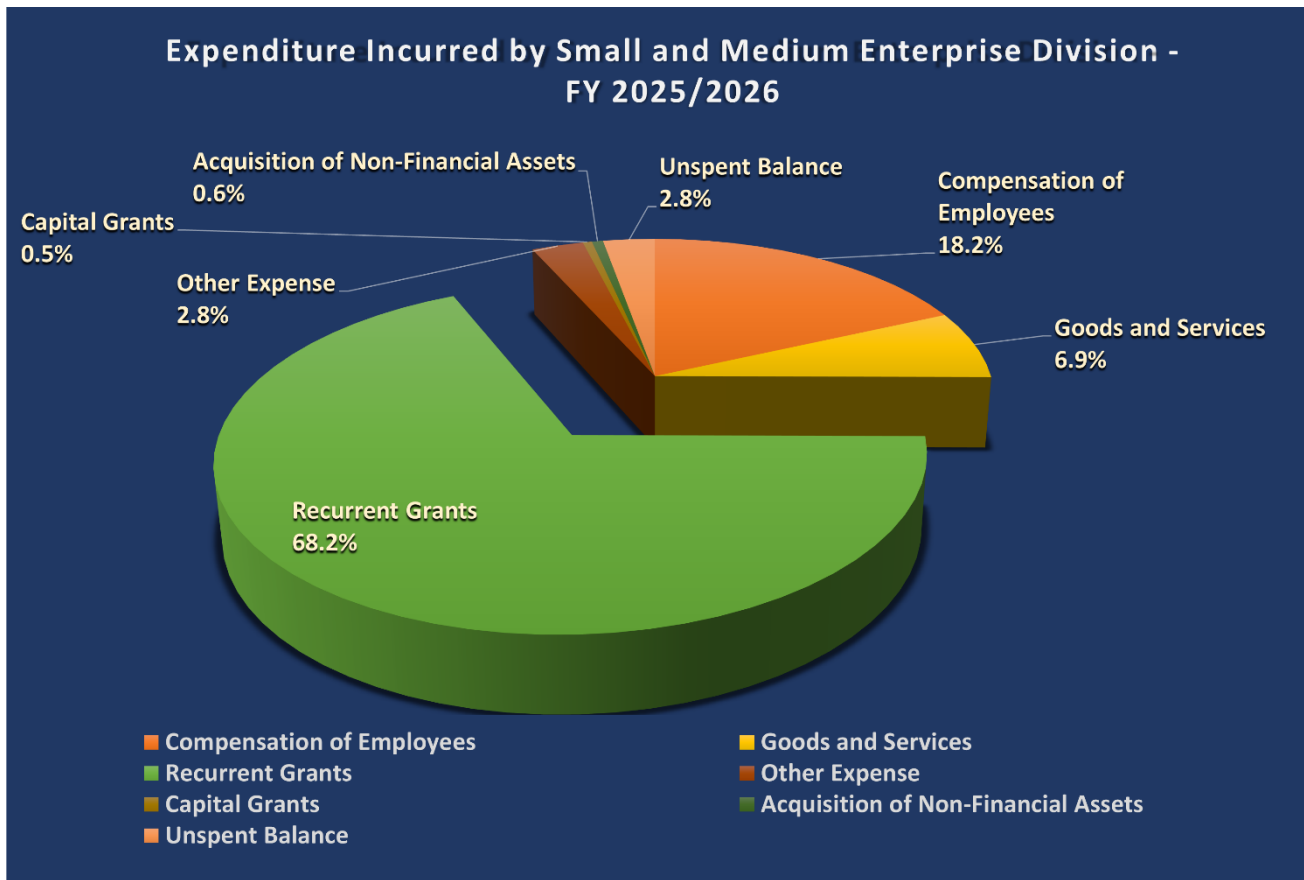
Statement of Expenditure under Programme 2102: SME Development

Programme	2024/2025 Actual (Rs)	2025/2026 Estimates (Rs)	2025/2026 Actual (Rs)
2102: SME Development	127,710,698	211,100,000	205,213,195
Allowance to Minister	2,336,936	-	-
Compensation of Employees	38,734,849	38,300,000	38,423,210
Goods and Services	14,795,206	19,800,000	14,723,219
Recurrent Grants	67,490,686	144,200,000	143,883,132
Other Expense	-	6,000,000	5,915,789
Capital Grants	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Acquisition of Non -Financial Assets	3,353,021	1,800,000	1,267,845

Major Variance from Budget Estimates for 2025/2026

The variance for compensation of Employees is due to increase in salary and allowances following the Implementation of PRB Report 2026.

The variance for goods and services is due to low response from SME's for participation in the National SME Award, deadline to submit applications was extended several times and selection exercise could not be finalized by the end of the financial year.



Percentage is based on Actual Expenditure FY 2025/2026 category-wise over Total Expenditure FY 2025/2026.

Compensation of Employees, Goods and Services, Grants, Other Expense and Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets accounted for 97.2% of Total Expenditure.

Compensation of Employees is made up of Basic Salary, Salary Compensation, Allowances, Extra Assistance, Cash in Lieu of Leave, End-of-year Bonus, Travelling and Transport, Overtime, Staff Welfare and Social Contributions

Goods and Services are mainly recurrent expenses incurred and include Cost of Utilities, Fuel and Oil, Rent, Office Equipment and Furniture, Office Expenses, Maintenance of Buildings, Plant & Equipment, Vehicles & Motorcycles and IT Equipment, Cleaning Services, Publications and Stationery, Fees, Travelling within the Republic and Other Goods and Services such as Uniforms, Miscellaneous Expenses and Gender Mainstreaming.

Grants refer to funds provided to SME Mauritius Ltd which consists of the Operating Budget, SME Support Schemes and Capital Expenditure.

Other Expense refers to transfers to Private Enterprises namely AMM for the Project “En Route Vers Made in Moris”.

Acquisition of Non-Financial assets refers to fund provided for Upgrading of Office Buildings, Acquisition of IT Equipment and the Central SME Database.

12.0 WAY FORWARD

12.1 TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The global economic outlook has, in the past financial year, become more volatile following new taxes on imports being imposed by the USA. The recent natural disasters and geopolitical turmoil such as the wars in Ukraine and Iran which have sent fuel and commodity prices soaring are reshaping the economic dynamics of Mauritius. There is a need to further leverage on the opportunities presented by renewable energy and artificial intelligence in order to boost production of goods and productivity.

Government, while constantly providing the necessary support for the SME sector, is looking for new market opportunities as well as new investors to further develop and boost the manufacturing sector in order to ensure that SMEs are equipped with the right skills and become more resilient in the face of the daunting challenges that lie ahead.

12.2 TRENDS

The worldwide developments that are drastically bringing forward major alteration in the SME sector include: -

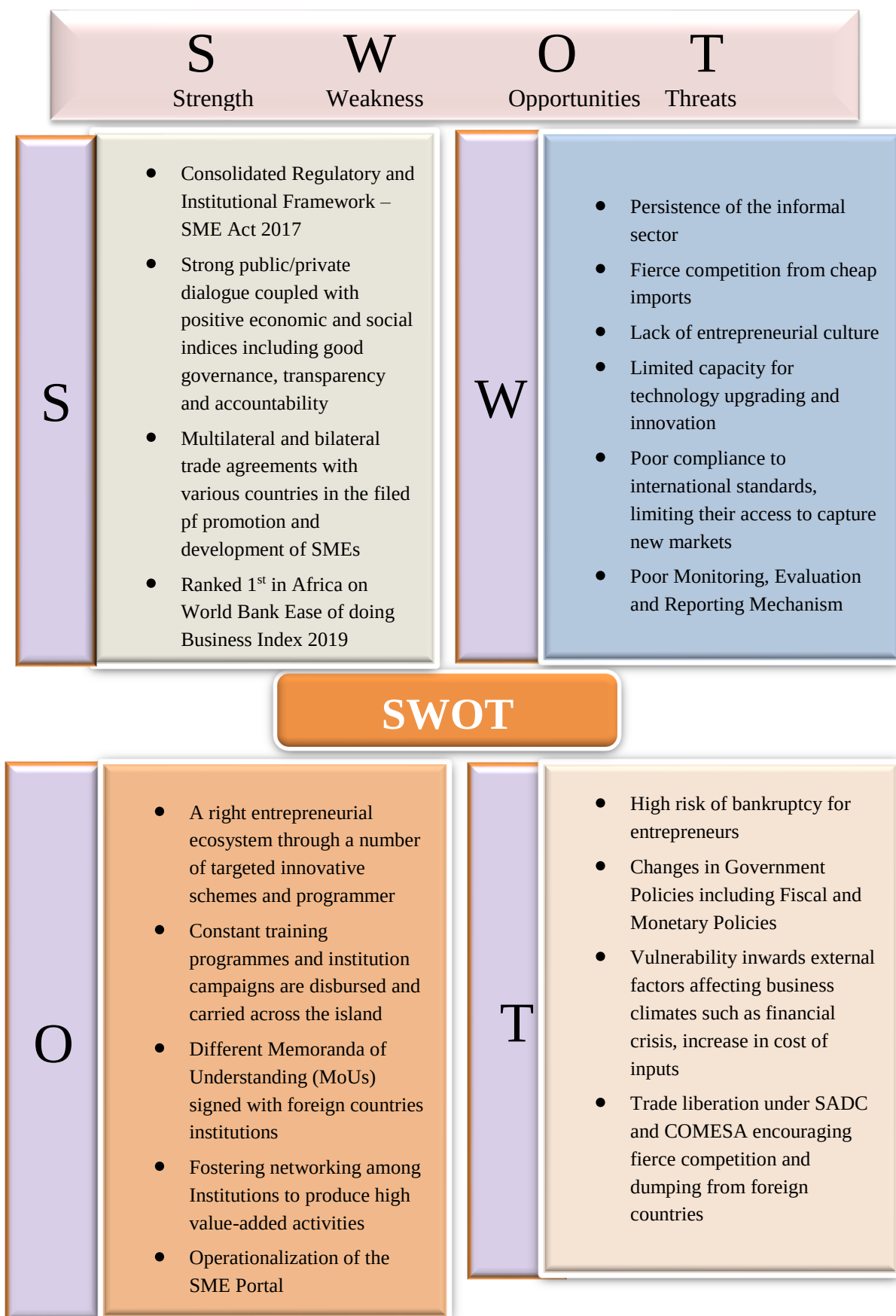
- ✚ The need to explore alternative sources of water supply and water retention.
- ✚ Greater reliance on renewable energy in order to weather in the soaring prices of fuel and transportation.
- ✚ The necessity to boost local production in order to strengthen on import substitution strategy.
- ✚ The need to adapt to new US Tariffs in order to stay competitive.
- ✚ Restructuration of business models to adapt to the new normal and the re-training of employees to enhance product/service delivery.
- ✚ Widespread changes in work environment resulting in employees working from home.
- ✚ Greater harnessing on AI technologies for service delivery.
- ✚ Implementation of Quality Standards in their processes to meet international norms.
- ✚ Enhancement of ability of SMEs to weave in the global business market due to increased competitiveness

12.3 CHALLENGES

The new economic challenges have brought in their wake major disruptions in economic activities worldwide. Mauritius has been no exception and this has had severe impacts on the productivity of our SMEs. The major challenges that could impact our SMEs in these testing times are: –

- ✚ New Tariffs on US import impacting on competitiveness of local businesses
- ✚ Risk of phasing out of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
- ✚ Decrease in business activities in international markets as a fallout of the Russia-Ukraine and Middle East conflicts
- ✚ Increase in cost of production due to shortages of raw materials and rising cost of imports of raw materials
- ✚ Reduction in competitiveness due to hiking fuel prices leading to increase in freight charges
- ✚ Fluctuating exchange rates
- ✚ Geographical instabilities
- ✚ Severe shortage of water due to less retention and severe drought.

13.0 SWOT ANALYSIS



14.0 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The MSME sector in Mauritius has embarked on a new trend of reforms geared towards enhanced productivity and sustainable economic prosperity. Government is providing various incentives for the development of the MSME sector. The new poles of development would invariably involve the extensive use of AI technologies and renewable energy sources. SMEs can gain competitive advantage by leveraging on these new sectors.

14.1 NEW SME BILL

The SME sector remains a key pillar of the Mauritian economy, contributing significantly to employment creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive economic growth. While the Small and Medium Enterprises Act 2017 has provided a legal framework for the registration and recognition of SMEs, the business landscape has evolved considerably, giving rise to new challenges as well as emerging opportunities.

Paragraph 36 of the Government Programme 2025–2029 underscores the need to foster a new entrepreneurial culture and to introduce a revamped legal framework for SMEs with a view to strengthening their capacity and competitiveness. Furthermore, paragraph 39(1) of the Budget Speech 2026/2027 announced the introduction of an SME Bill aimed at creating a more conducive business environment. In this context, a new SME Bill will be drafted to provide for a comprehensive review and modernisation of the Small and Medium Enterprises Act 2017.

Current Status: The SME Division will, in due course, embark on a consultation exercise with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the proposed legislation adequately reflects the prevailing realities, needs, and aspirations of the SME sector and supports its sustainable development and long-term contribution to the economy.

14.2 En Route Vers Made in Moris (EVRM) Programme

The ERVM Programme is a capacity-building programme implemented by the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM) under the Made in Moris initiative and financed through the budgetary allocation of the SME Division. It is designed to assist Mauritian SMEs in enhancing their competitiveness and meeting the requirements for obtaining the Made in Moris Label.

The project is structured in cohorts and has a target of 120 SMEs over 3 years. The programme is offered free of charge to participating SMEs.

As at June 2026, Cohorts 1 and 2 had been successfully completed, with approximately **71** SMEs benefiting from specialised training, business coaching and certification support.

14.3 National SME Award 2025 (ongoing)

The National SME Award aims to recognise and reward outstanding registered Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across Mauritius that demonstrated excellence, innovation, sustainable growth, and the adoption of best business practices over the last three (3) financial years.

The National SME Award 2025 seeks to reward SMEs for:

- promoting SMEs competitiveness and sustainable growth;
- adopting technology and enhancing digitalization drive amongst SMEs;
- embracing innovation, circular and responsible practices amongst SMEs; and
- leading the way and inspiring entrepreneurs.

A Technical Assessment Committee (TAC) was set up on 28 January 2026, comprising representatives from the SME Division, SME Registration Unit and SME Mauritius Ltd.

The TAC met on six (6) occasions to assess and evaluate the applications received, based on the established criteria as per the Guidelines for Participation.

As at June 2026, a total of 12 applicants have been shortlisted, of which 9 are micro enterprises, 1 is a small enterprise, and 2 are medium enterprises.

A Technical Evaluation Status Report has been submitted to Management for consideration and further action.

15.0 CONCLUSION

With the ongoing economic upheavals as a result of geopolitical shocks, the SME Division is working on implementation of policies for sustainable growth and the enhancement of an enabling market environment for SMEs in order to strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit.

The SME Division will pursue its tireless efforts in a holistic manner to address the main constraints of SMEs by supporting their enhancement of productivity and competitiveness especially by facilitating the adoption of new technologies including Artificial Intelligence in order to render them more resilient in the face of new challenges.