



Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives  
(SME Division)



ANNUAL REPORT  
Financial Year  
2024-2025

October 2025

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## *1.0 ABOUT THE MINISTRY*

### **1.1 INSIGHT OF THE MINISTRY**

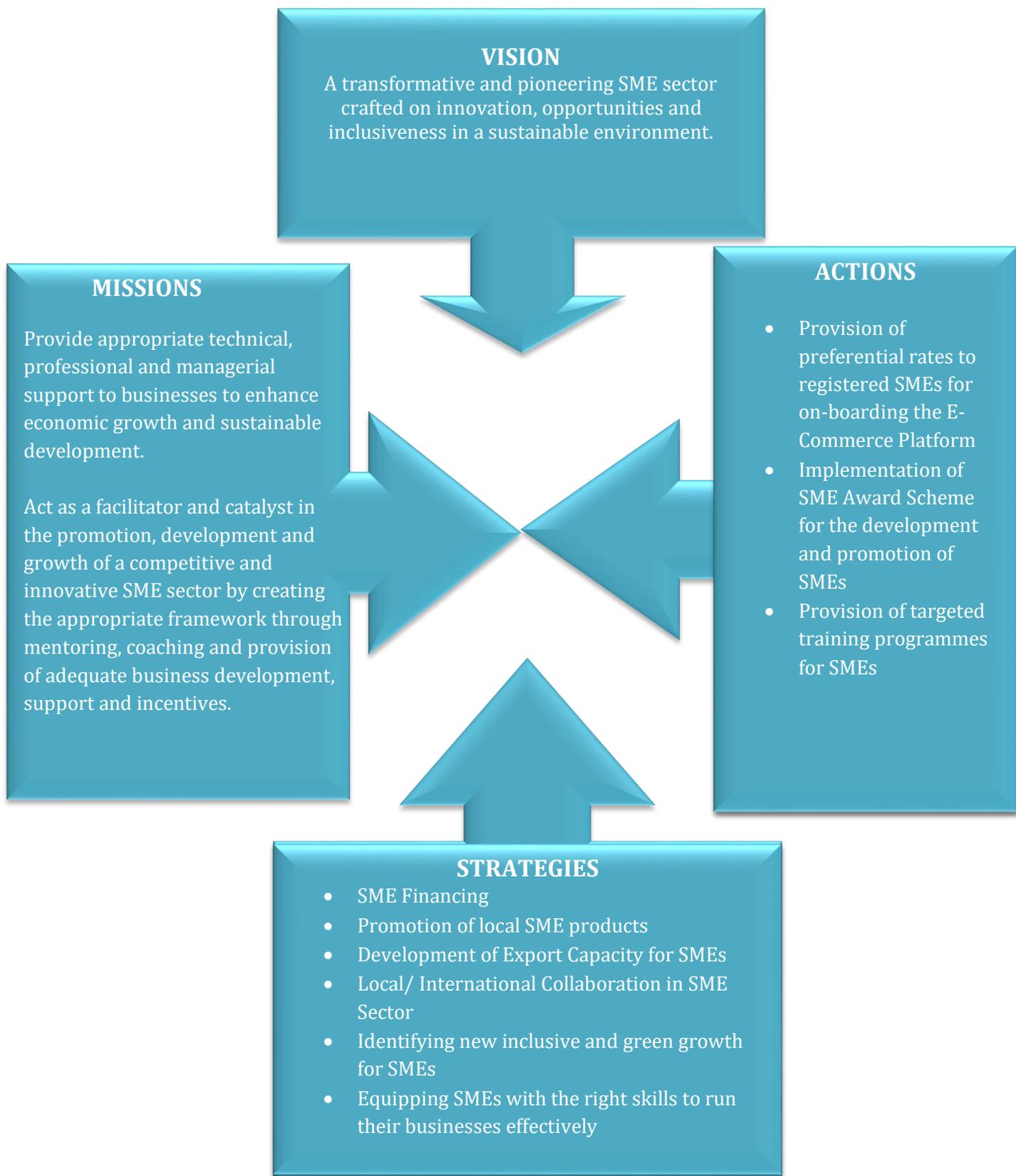
The Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives comprises three Divisions namely the Industry, SME and Cooperatives Divisions respectively. The main activities of the Ministry revolve around formulation of policies pertaining to Industrial Development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives.

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 with great honour that I present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives (SME Division) for the Financial Year 2024–2025. Having assumed office in November 2024, my foremost objective has been to bring renewed direction, focus and momentum to the SME Division - ensuring that our policies, programmes and actions translate into tangible results for the entrepreneurs who form the backbone of our economy.

The SME sector remains a cornerstone of Mauritius' economic and social fabric. It represents over 40% of GDP and employs nearly half of our workforce. Yet, it continues to face structural and emerging challenges - from financing gaps and market competition to the rapid pace of technological change.

Since taking office, we have taken decisive steps to get the SME Division back on track. Our approach is guided by three principles: efficiency, innovation and inclusiveness. This means streamlining administrative processes, accelerating programme delivery and creating an environment where every entrepreneur - whether micro, small or medium - can grow with confidence.

One of the key pillars of this renewed effort has been the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP). These regional outreach initiatives have played a vital role in encouraging entrepreneurs to register with the SME Registration Unit, thereby gaining access to a wide range of support schemes, mentoring and advisory services. Through these programmes, many informal operators have been able to transition into the formal economy and begin benefiting from the institutional support designed for their growth.

The Ministry has also placed emphasis on reviving strategic sectors with high value-addition potential. The Leather Value Chain Development Project, supported through regional collaboration under the COMESA framework, is progressing steadily. This initiative aims to modernise artisanal leather production, support small manufacturers and create opportunities for exports within the African region.

Such projects embody our vision of moving beyond traditional production models, helping Mauritian enterprises climb the value chain through innovation, design and international partnerships.

In line with this vision, my official mission to India earlier this year provided a strong platform to explore new avenues of cooperation in industrial development, technology transfer and SME partnerships. Productive discussions were held with Indian government agencies and business leaders to attract investment into Mauritius while facilitating collaboration between Mauritian and Indian SMEs.

The future of entrepreneurship lies in innovation and technology adoption. The Ministry is, therefore, encouraging SMEs to embrace digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) as tools to improve productivity, strengthen competitiveness and access new markets. From digital accounting systems and e-commerce platforms to data-driven decision-making, AI and automation are becoming essential components of business resilience.

The SME Division will continue to work with partners to help enterprises integrate these technologies through training, technical assistance and pilot projects.

As we move forward, our actions will continue to focus on enhancing access to finance and facilitating business expansion whilst encouraging sustainable and inclusive entrepreneurship, with special attention to women and youth.

Our mission is not only to sustain our SMEs, but to empower them to lead, innovate, export and inspire.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated officers of the SME Division and to all our partners for their professionalism and commitment. Together, we are laying the foundations for a more resilient, modern and competitive SME sector.

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

### 1.3 Statement from Permanent Secretary



It gives me immense great pleasure to be associated with the publication of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (SME Division) for the period 2024-2025.

I would like to confer my appreciation of the contribution and commitment of the staff of the SME Division and SME Mauritius Ltd in ensuring implementation of various projects and schemes of the Ministry in a very professional and efficient manner.

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

The period 2024-2025 has been faced with numerous challenges leading to new dynamics in the management of the economy, and *par ricochet*, the operation of our SMEs.

The advent of a new Government, following the General Elections of November 2024, brought, in its wake, a feel-good factor across Mauritius and its diaspora worldwide. The ensuing sense of relief, in turn, brought a new impetus, together with its load of expectations, from the business community across Mauritius.

It has become public knowledge that there has been largess in public spending on non-productive and non-revenue generating activities over the past decade, which has left Mauritius with the legacy of a huge debt-to-GDP ratio coupled with a dwindling exchange rate of the Mauritian Rupee *vis-à-vis* the US dollar, Euro and other currencies of our major trading partners. The ever-widening trade deficit and the neglect of the Port services of Mauritius, which has been ranked among the worst in the world in 2024, had made the situation even worse. This led to enormous challenges to our SMEs in their imports of raw materials and export of goods. Realising this economic shock, the new Government embarked on a comprehensive policy of reforms at all stages of the economy in order to help redress the situation. Coupled with these challenges the world economic environment has also become more uncertain, leading to more economic speculations and vulnerability.

Thus, year 2025 has seen new challenges coming from international shocks such as the imposition of huge US tariffs on Mauritius and our major trading partners, which tend to render our products less competitive in US and European Union markets. Furthermore, as the phasing out of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) looms large on our economic horizon, it is anticipated that the Mauritian economy will still be navigating against adverse conditions, at least, in the medium terms. Hence, there is a need to have the right policy strategy in place as palliative measures.

In an endeavour to bring new strategies in the furtherance of the development of our SMEs, the SME Division did not leave any stone unturned over the past financial year. In 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Industries of India, whilst we shall shortly sign another MoU with SME Corporation of Malaysia.

Moreover, in order to facilitate the registration of SMEs at the SME Division, a new Integrated IT System with centralised SME database has been introduced in September 2025.

In June 2025, the SME Division finalised a Report on Technical Assistance to Further Enhance the Development of the Leather Value Chain in Mauritius, prepared by the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI). The report comes at an opportune time and 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. This will help Mauritius 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. In order to craft out policies to give effect to the recommendations of the Report, a Steering Committee has been set up at the SME Division.

New measures such as the island-wide Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme in various parts of the Island were initiated since December 2025 and the launching of Expression of Interests to invite SMEs to participate in the National SME Award 2025 are principally designed to encourage the operations of SMEs and enhance their visibility whilst showing appreciation for the dedication.

As we approach the end of 2025, I invite our SMEs to join our efforts in building a more resilient economic sector which is able to face the daunting challenges ahead.

I, therefore, rely on the flexibility of the SME sector in crafting out the appropriate 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

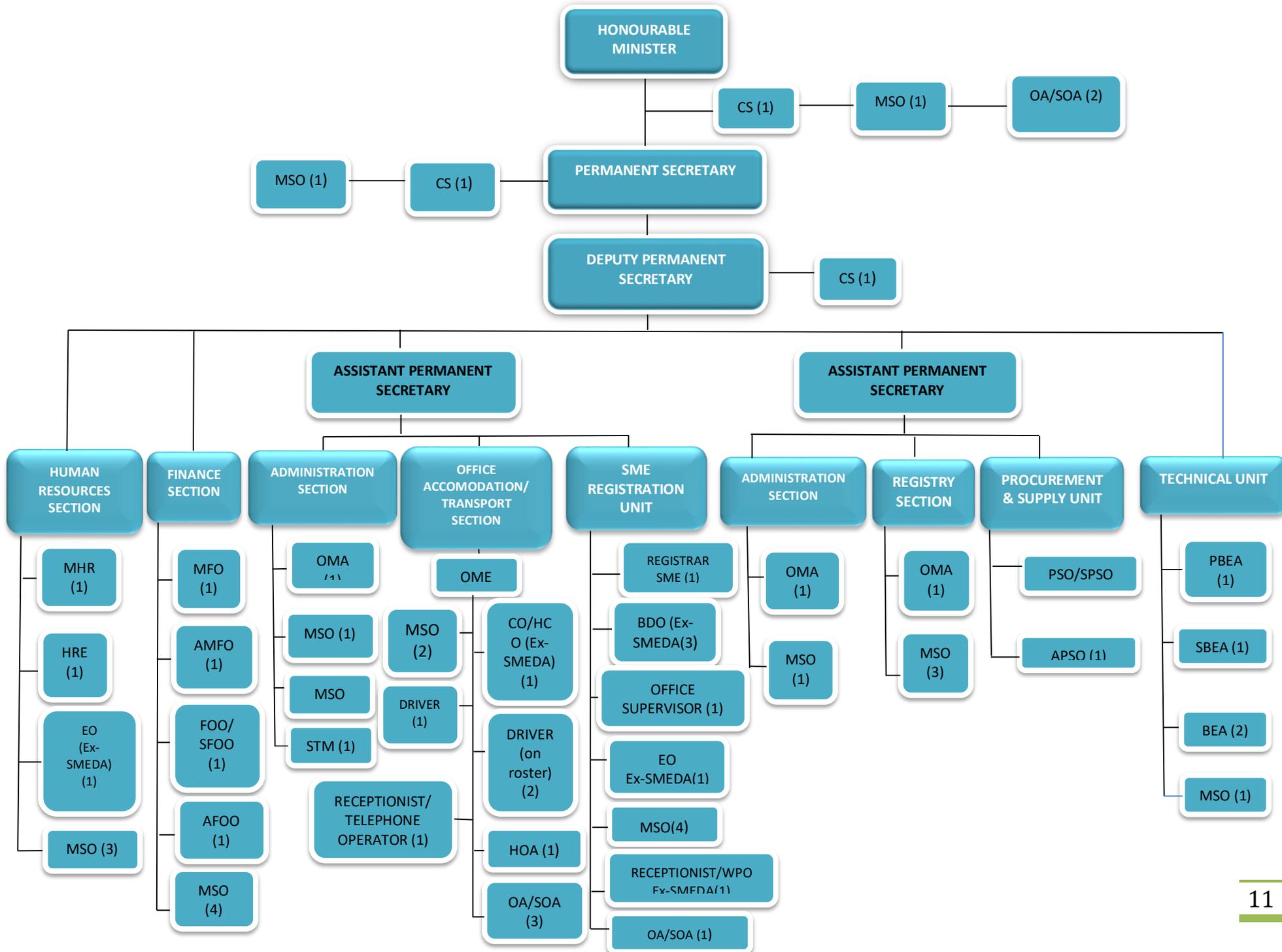
### Our People

1. The Ministry is headed by a Permanent Secretary who is assisted by a Deputy Permanent Secretary and two Assistant Permanent Secretaries. On the technical side, the Principal Business and Enterprise Analyst is the head of the Unit and is supported by technical staff in the grade of Senior Business and Enterprise Analyst and Business and Enterprise Analyst. 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.



*Picture 1: Honorable Minister addressing to all staff*

**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, SME AND COOPERATIVES (SME DIVISION)**  
**ORGANISATION CHART**



## 2.3.1 MANAGEMENT TEAM

DESIGNATION	NAME	TEL NO	E-MAIL ADDRESS
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<b>Permanent Secretary</b>	Mr Raj Kishore BUNJUN	Phone: 405 3157 (thr' CS) Fax: 2144152	<a href="mailto:rbunjun@govmu.org">rbunjun@govmu.org</a>
<b>Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary</b>	Mr Muhammad Ziyaad MADARBOKUS	Phone: 405 3129 (thr' CS) Fax: 2139169	<a href="mailto:mzmadarbokus@govmu.org">mzmadarbokus@govmu.org</a>
<b>Assistant Permanent Secretary</b>	Mrs Nirma Devi ARJUNAN	Phone: 405 3118 Fax: 2139176	<a href="mailto:narjunan@govmu.org">narjunan@govmu.org</a>
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Manager, Human Resources</b>	Mr Abdool Shamad BHEEKHOO	Phone: 405 3113 Fax: 2141487	<a href="mailto:abheekhoo@govmu.org">abheekhoo@govmu.org</a>
<b>FINANCIAL OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>Manager, Financial Operations</b>	Mrs Savita BOODHNA	Phone: 405 3115 Fax: 2139159	<a href="mailto:saboodhna@govmu.org">saboodhna@govmu.org</a>
<b>OFFICE ACCOMODATION/TRANSPORT</b>			
<b>Office Management Executive</b>	Mr Sanjiv JAHAJEEAH	Phone: 405 3126 Fax: 2139176	<a href="mailto:sajahajeeah@govmu.org">sajahajeeah@govmu.org</a>
<b>PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SECTION</b>			
<b>Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer</b>	Mrs Meenakshi Devi KHAYTOO	Phone: 405 3116 Fax: 2144154	<a href="mailto:mkhaytoo@govmu.org">mkhaytoo@govmu.org</a>
<b>REGISTRY</b>			
<b>Office Management Assistant</b>	Mrs Lalita BUNDHOOA	Phone: 405 3120 Fax: 2139176	<a href="mailto:mbundhooa@govmu.org">mbundhooa@govmu.org</a>

## TECHNICAL UNIT

**Principal Business and Enterprise Analyst**

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## SME REGISTRATION UNIT

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Mr Soobeeraj  
NOWBUTSING

[snowbutsing@govmu.org](mailto:snowbutsing@govmu.org)

*Table 1: List of Head of Sections*

## 2.3.2 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 (June 2025)	Number	Male	Female
Top Management (Salary $\geq$ Rs 110,000)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Middle Management (Rs 47,000 $\leq$ Salary < Rs 110,000)	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
Support (Salary < Rs 47,000)	<b>54</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>
Overall	<b>66</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>

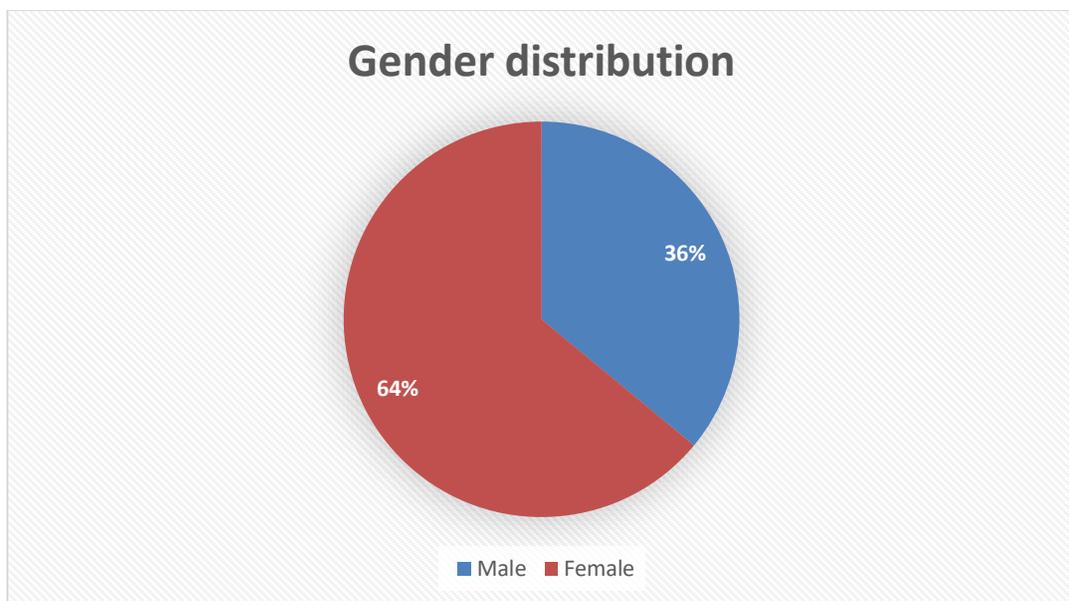
*Table 2: Gender Distribution*

## 2. Movement of Staff

- ✚ During the Financial Year 2024/2025, one officer in the grade of Office Supervisor has retired on 17 April 2025.
- ✚ One Business and Enterprise Analyst was promoted to the grade of Senior Business and Enterprise Analyst in August 2024.

## 3. Gender Distribution

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



**Figure 3: Employees Gender Distribution**

### 2.3.3 Human Resource Training and Development

## Training and Development

Training and Development is an important component of the Human Resource Management and is part of the overall strategy to nurture a culture of performance in the Public Service. It is critical for organizational development and competitiveness as it can trigger change in the organization and impact positively on productivity and efficiency.



During the Financial Year 2024/25, the Human Resources Section had worked out a Training Plan based on the training needs and officers were enrolled on local training courses organised by the Civil Service College, Mauritius to enhance their competencies. Moreover, some the technical staff participated in international training programmes conducted online and offline by the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).



*Picture 2: Staff attending training*



*Picture 3: Handing over of Certificates*

### 2.3.4 Local Training and Capacity Building Programmes

2. The training courses attended by officers during the Financial Year 2024/2025, is shown in Table 1 below:

#### Local Training

Sn	Course/Training	No. of officers attended
1	Training course on Management and Leadership Development	1
2	Training course on Bid Preparation and Evaluation	1
3	Capability Building and Capability Development Programme level 3 - Leadership and Management Training Programme for Technical Grade	2
4	Training Programme on First Aid	4
5	Training Course on Advanced Word	1
6	Capacity Building and Cabability Development Programme Level 2 - Operation & Process Management Training Programme for Support Staff	7
7	Foundation Course for newly recruited MSO	6
8	Induction Course for HOAs	1
9	Induction Course for OA/SOA	2
10	Tea Making and Service	3
11	Public Services Training Programme for workmen's Group	2
12	Training Course on Advanced Microsoft Excel	1
13	Training Course on Essential of Psychology and Counselling Techniques	1
14	Training course on Transport Management	1
15	Training for secretaries of Audit Committees	1
16	Safety and Health in the Workplace for OMA	1
17	Safety and Health in the Workplace for MSOs	6
18	OSH Management System for Members of the OSH Steering Committee	1
19	Managing Risk at the Workplace for Representatives of Safety and Health Committees	3
20	Training Programme on "Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management" for Fire Wardens	3
21	Safety and Health at the Workplace for Office Auxiliary	1

## 2.3.5 Overseas Training and Capacity Building Programmes

### Overseas Training Courses

Sn	Course/Training	No. of officers attended
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Attended by officers of SME Division</b></li> </ul>	
1	Seminar on Development and Management of Service outsourcing for Developing Countries from 06 to 19 June 2025 – China	2
2	AARDO - Course on Inclusive Rural and Regional Development in Malaysia for African-Asian Rural Development (AARDO) Member countries from 23-30 July 2024, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Attended by officers of SME Mauritius</b></li> </ul>	
3	Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age for Micro Enterprise Advancement from 09 to 22 October 2024, India	1
4	Seminar on the Small and Medium sized Enterprise Development for African Countries from 11 to 24 September 2024, China	2
5	New Enterprise Creation and Skill Upgradation Programme in French from 29 January to 11 February 2025, ITEC India	2
6	International trade Export-Import Procedure and Documentation in French from 19 February to 04 March 2025, ITEC India	1
7	Human Resource Development and Entrepreneurship Education – Trainers/Promoters Programme, from 11 to 24 Jun 2025, ITEC India	1

*Table 4: Overseas Training*

### 2.3.6 Team Building

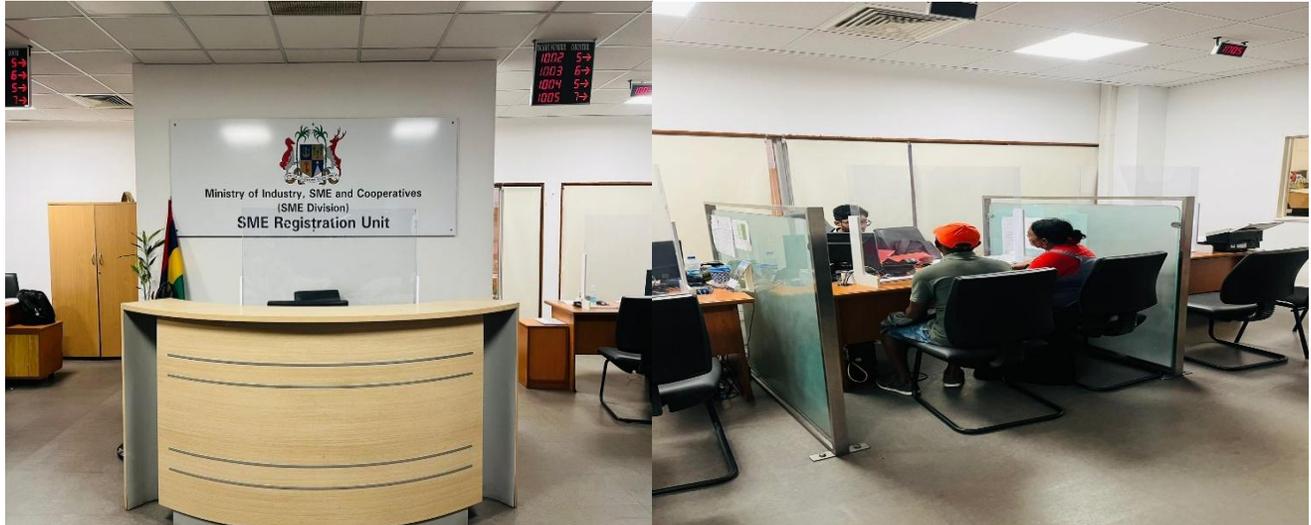
A team building exercise on the theme “Improving organizational efficiency through communication” was organized on 13 February 2025 at Zilwa Attitude Hotel and all staff participated therein.



Picture 4: Team Building at Zilwa Attitude

### 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 SME Registration Unit was operating an online registration platform for SMEs since October 2019. Since its creation, 29,215 applications have been received and processed. For Financial Year 2024-2025, 4,706 online applications were received and processed, out of which 4464 Registration Certificates have been issued.

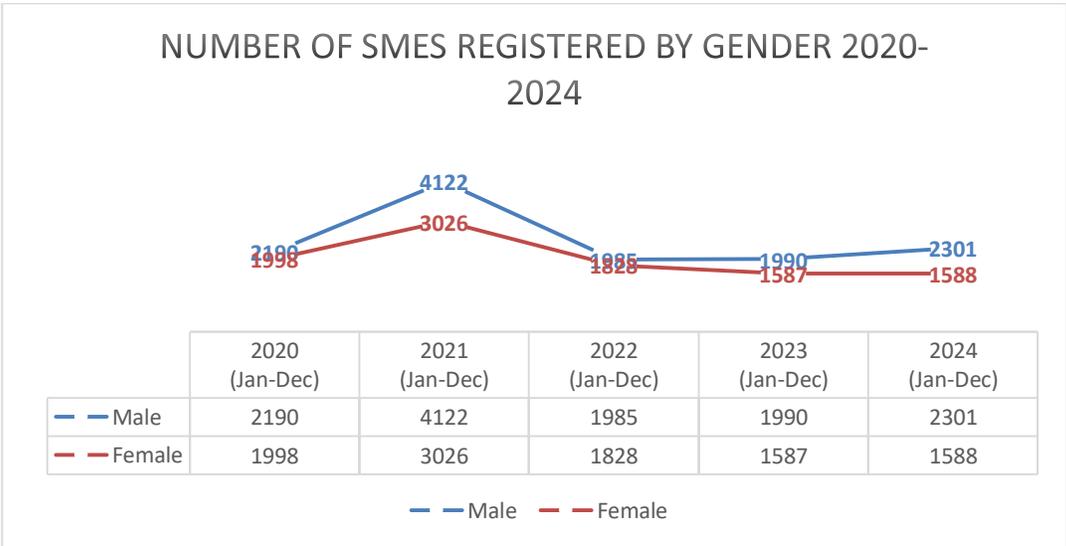
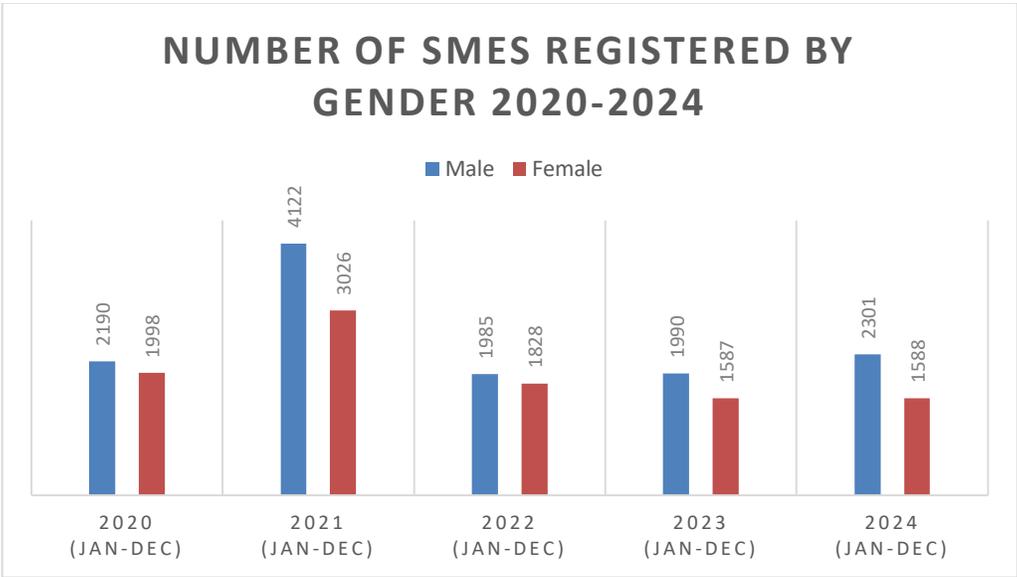
#### **Incentives, Facilities and Support Services to Micro, Small and Medium enterprises**

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

- 1) Concessionary rate of interests on loan at DBM Ltd;
- 2) Exemption from custom duty on double space cabin;
- 3) Exemption from Land Conversion Tax;
- 4) Road Tax at concessionary rate with the National Land Transport Authority;
- 5) 4-year holiday tax from the Mauritius Revenue Authority;
- 6) Margin of preference of 40% to local SMEs having an annual turnover not exceeding MUR100 million; and
- 7) Support schemes offered by the SME Mauritius Ltd

### 3.1 Data and graphical interpretation for the number of SMEs registered from the Year 2020-2024

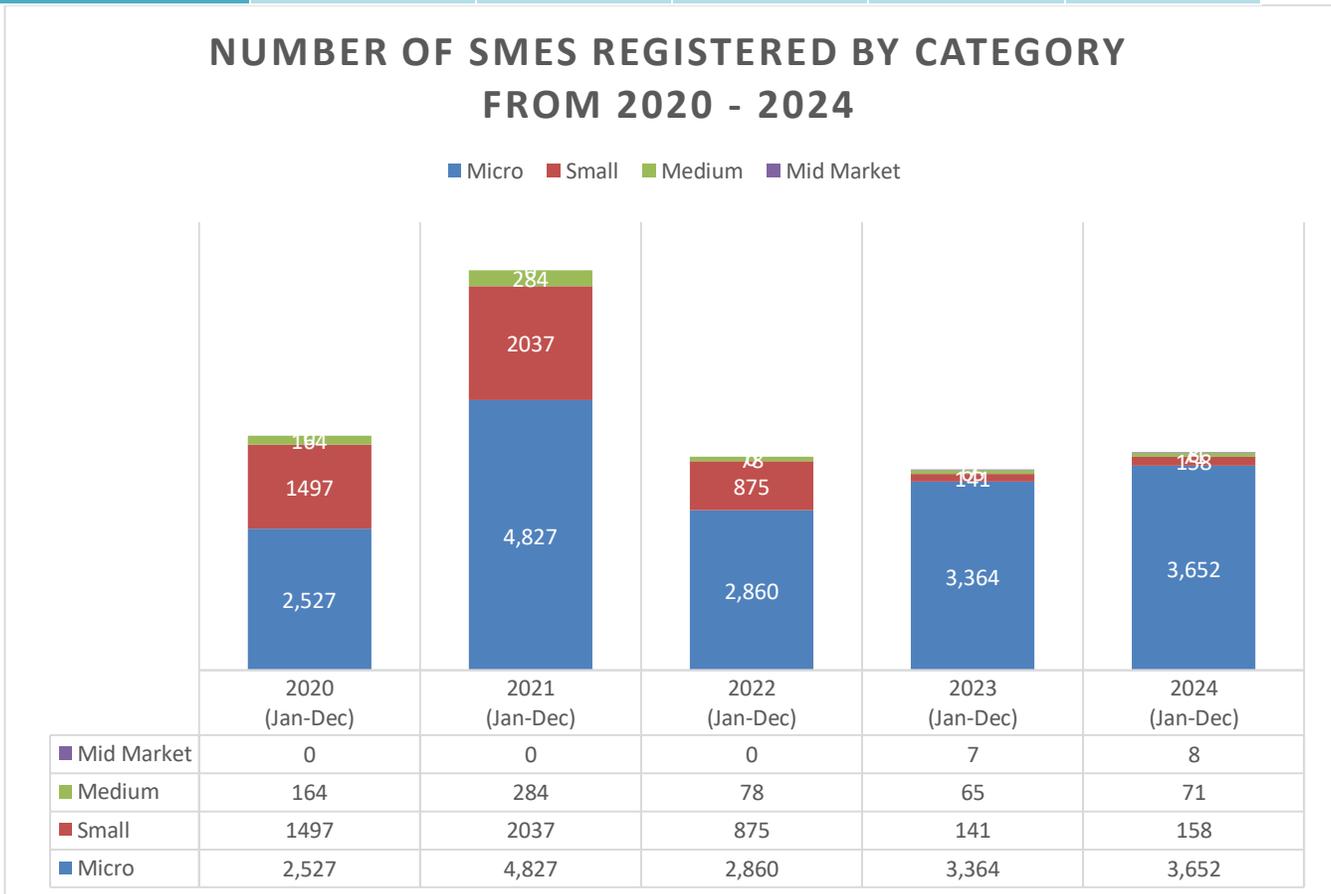
Number of SMEs registered	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	2190	4122	1985	1990	2301
Female	1998	3026	1828	1587	1588
<b>Total SMEs Registered</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>3577</b>	<b>3889</b>

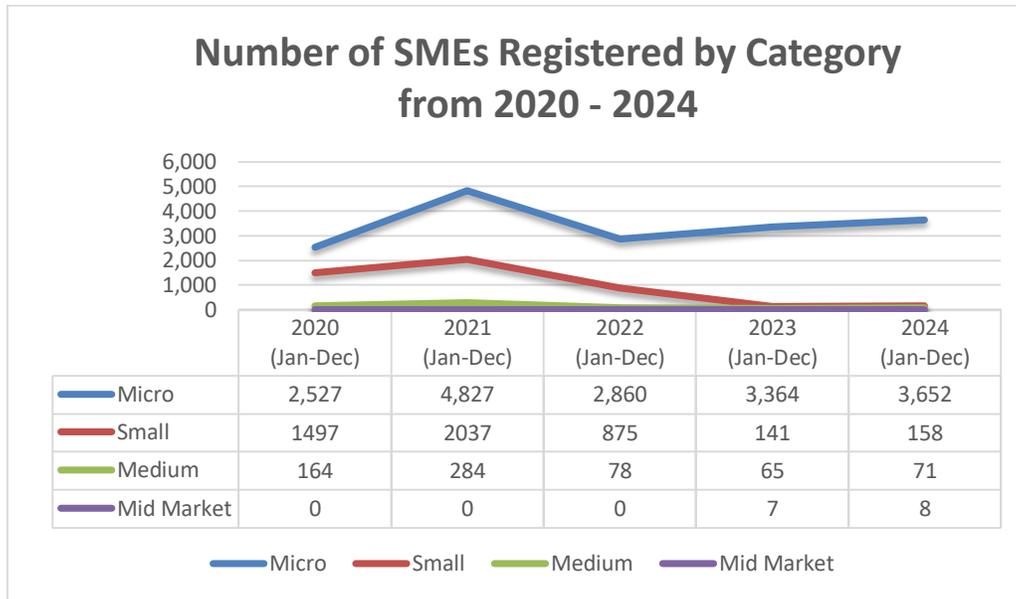


The above table and corresponding figures outline the total number of SMEs registered by gender from 2020-2024. It can be derived that the number of SMEs registration has dropped to 3813 in 2022. However, it is also important to point out that the number of SMEs registration was relatively high in 2021 due to various support schemes provided by DBM in order to assist SMEs post Covid-19.

### 3.2 Data and graphical representation for the number of Registered SMEs by Category from the year 2020 to 2024

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Micro	2,527	4,827	2,860	3,364	3,652
Small	1497	2037	875	141	158
Medium	164	284	78	65	71
Mid-Market	0	0	0	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>3,889</b>





The above table and figure demonstrates the size of SMEs registered (Micro, Small, Medium and MID Market) for the period of 2020 to 2024. The information above shows that most entrepreneurs registered their businesses as Micro enterprises followed by small enterprises. 7 and 8 registrations were received for MID Market enterprises in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

### 3.3 Number of Visitors

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan to August)
Number of visitors attended	4,906	5,356	5,637	5,968	3,653	5,032	5,776	4,436

### 3.4 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 SME Act 2017;

### 3.5 Total Number of SMEs registered by Gender FY 2024-2025

Total Number of SMEs registered by Gender FY 2024-2025				
Gender	Mauritius	Rodrigues	Total	%
Male	2663	61	2724	61
Female	1678	62	1740	39
<i>Total</i>	<b>4341</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4464</b>	<b>100</b>

For the Financial Year 2024-25, 4464 SMEs were registered; 2724 Males (Including 61 Rodrigues) and 1740 Females (Including 62 Rodrigues).

As percentage, it can be seen on the table as 61% of males and 39% of females were registered as SMEs in the FY 2024-25.

Total certificates issued for the same period were 4464.

Total Number of applications received for 2024-25: 4706.

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

### 4.1 Implementation of an Integrated IT System for SMEs in Mauritius

The SME Division had, in April 2023, embarked on an Integrated IT System for SMEs, which aims at harmonising all data available on SMEs on a common platform in order to obtaining real time data and statistics with a view to enhance service delivery and enable policy makers to devise and formulate effective policies for SMEs.

In this respect, the project ‘**Supply, Customisation, Installation & Post Go-Live Support of an Integrated IT System for SMEs**’ was awarded to **State Informatics Ltd (SIL)**, on **30 August 2024** for a sum of **Rs 3,295,445.21**. A contract agreement was signed between this Division and SIL on **16 September 2024**.

#### The Project objectives are to:

- 1) allow SMEs to register and apply for an SME Certificate and submit all related documents and information digitally;
- 2) enable SMEs to register without having to come physically to the SME Registration Unit;
- 3) provide a Web Responsive App to be used on mobile devices for the registration of SMEs;
- 4) integration with Info highway to pull information from external stakeholders’ systems;
- 5) improve the work processes related to management of SMEs at the SME Division; and
- 6) provide relevant harmonised data on SMEs to policy decision makers.

The project went live in September 2025 and SMEs are now registering through Maupass.

The portal has been in operation since 13 August 2025. Since the Go-live of the new portal, a total of **296** SME Registration Certificates have been issued as from 13 August 2025 to 15 September 2025. Out of the 296 applications, 27 online applications have been received and processed. Details are depicted in the table below:

Registration by Type as from 13 August 2025	
New Registration	272
Renewal/Amendment	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>

## 4.2 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.

### 4.3 Memorandum of Understanding between SME Mauritius Ltd and the Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation, Malaysia

1. Following various consultations held between the SME Division and the Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation Malaysia for the purpose of strengthening and deepening the relations between Mauritius and Malaysia in the field of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development, it had been agreed to consider the establishment of a framework of cooperation between both countries. This framework would, *inter-alia*, help in improving the economic and commercial activities between both countries, which would also contribute towards boosting the development of our local MSMEs.

2. The objective of the MoU is to enable both countries to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation in the field of MSME development through the:

- (i) sharing of policies, expertise and information for improving the competitiveness of Mauritian and Malaysian MSMEs in global markets;
- (ii) exchange of information especially in the areas of digitalisation and market access;
- (iii) implementation of promotional activities such as business forums, workshops, trainings, seminars, conferences, study visits to facilitate the development of MSMEs;
- (iv) provision of facilities for holding of conferences and seminars in the respective countries; and
- (v) participation in business fairs, conferences, seminars and other events in the Republic of Mauritius and Malaysia, where MSMEs would have an opportunity to establish business relations.

This MoU would further strengthen the bilateral relations between our two countries through enhanced market access and technical expertise in the SME sector.

3. Government has already agreed to the signing of the MoU and this Division is working on modalities for the signature thereof.

## **4.4 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.

4.4.1

Validation workshop on the 'Draft Report on Technical Assistance to further enhance the Development of the Leather Value Chain in Mauritius' held on 11 June 2025 at Ravenala Attitude Hotel, BalACLava.



## 4.5 Salon des PME

The SME Mauritius Ltd, which operates under the aegis of the SME Division of this Ministry, had held its first Salon de PME for the year 2025 from Friday 23 May 2025 to Sunday 25 May 2025 at Place des Taxis, Central Flacq, whereby some 100 SMEs participated in the Salon.

The SME Mauritius Ltd organises around three (3) “Salon des PME”, on a yearly basis and each “Salon des PME” offers unique business development opportunities to entrepreneurs. It aims to improve the visibility of SMEs by providing them with a platform and the opportunity to display a range of local products, create awareness and showcase their “*savoir-faire*”.

The range of products which are put on sale at affordable prices includes textiles, footwear, jewellery, food items, furniture, plants and other locally sourced goods. These products are manufactured locally or have high degree of local content.



*Salon Des PME-Flacq*

## 4.6 Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme

SMEs play a crucial role in the economic, social, and developmental landscape of Mauritius. They are the backbone of our economy, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering economic resilience. To support and empower these enterprises, several initiatives / schemes have been put in place by this Division and SME Mauritius Ltd.

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. The first Programme was held in January 2025, for the region of Port Louis at the Dr Idrice Goumany Municipal Centre, Plaine Verte whereby around 350 persons attended. The second Programme was held in April 2025 in the Northern region at Plaine des Papayes Multipurpose Hall which saw the participation of 450 persons.

A third EAP was held in the Southern region in June 2025 at Kuushi Hall, Plaine Magnien and a fourth one 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.



*Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme: Port Louis*



*Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme: Plaines Des Papayes*



*Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme: Plaine Magnien*

## 5.0 COOPERATIVES MARKET FAIR AT QUATRES-BORNES

With a view to supporting SMEs to market their products, the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, allotted 92 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 **73** SMEs.



## 6.0 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 **10,947** as at 18 August 2025 SMEs on the e-Directory portal.

## 7.0 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. For the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to 30 June 2025, a total of 27 visits have been effected by the SME Registration Unit.

**8.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FY 2024/2025**

<b>Delivery Unit</b>	<b>Main Service</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Target 2024/2025</b>	<b>Achievement at 30 June 2025</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>SME Division</b>	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

## **9.0 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.

## 10.0 RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

### 10.1 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.

## **11.0 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **11.1 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.

### **11.2 Risk Management Framework**

Since 31<sup>st</sup> 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

2024 - 2025

## 12.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In accordance with Budget Estimates 2024-2025, the *Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs & Cooperatives (Small & Medium Enterprise Division)* had for the Financial Year one Vote under its control namely **24-1** but with 2 sub-heads – 24-101 and 24-103.

## 12.2 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Overall Expenditure by Vote.

An amount of Rs130.4M was provided to the Ministry (Small & Medium Enterprises Division) in Budget 2024/2025 out of which Rs127.7M was spent.

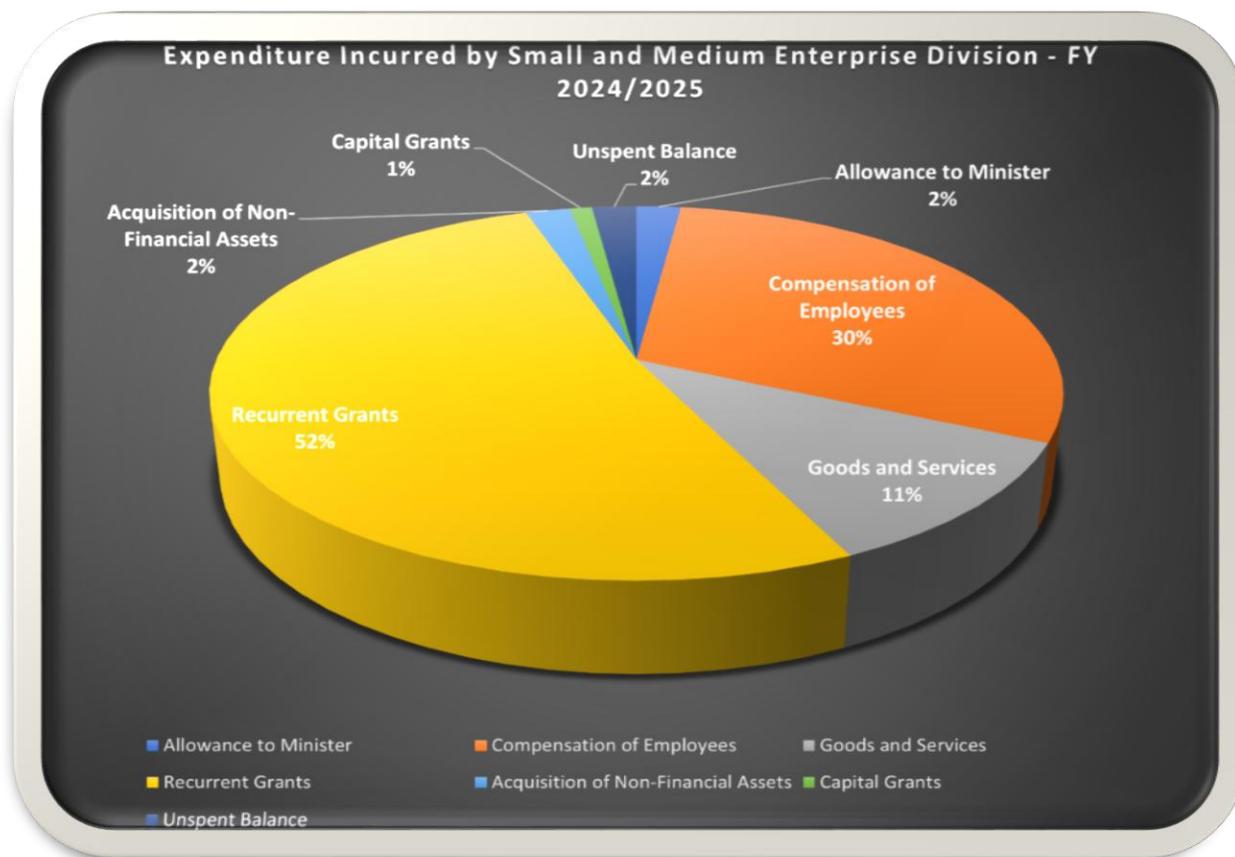
## 12.3 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

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 SMEs Division under Vote 24-1 which includes Sub-Heads 24-101: General and 24-103: Small & Medium Enterprises Division.

Statement of Expenditure under Vote 24-1

Sub-Head of Expenditure	2024/2025 Estimates (Rs)	2024/2025 Actual (Rs)
<b>24-101: General</b>	<b>42,200,000</b>	<b>40,567,804</b>
Allowance to Minister	2,400,000	2,336,936
Compensation of Employees	20,300,000	19,391,955
Goods and Services	15,000,000	14,795,206
Grants	800,000	690,686
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3,700,000	3,353,021
<b>24-103: Small and Medium Enterprises</b>	<b>88,200,000</b>	<b>87,142,894</b>
Compensation of Employees	20,400,000	19,342,894
Recurrent Grants (Operating Budget of SME Mauritius Ltd only )	66,800,000	66,800,000
Capital Grants	1,000,000	1,000,000



Percentage is based on Actual Expenditure FY 2024/2025 category-wise over Total Expenditure FY 2024/2025.

- ✚ Allowance to Minister, Compensation of Employees, Goods and Services, Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets and Grants accounted for around 98 % 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 and Capital Expenditure.

## 13.0 WAY FORWARD

### 13.1 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 the Middle East together with the outcry of Gen Z in Nepal and Madagascar are reshaping the economic dynamics of Mauritius. There is a need to further leverage on the opportunities presented the 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 to ensure that SMEs are equipped with the right skills and become more resilient in the face of the challenges that lie ahead.

### 13.2 TRENDS

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

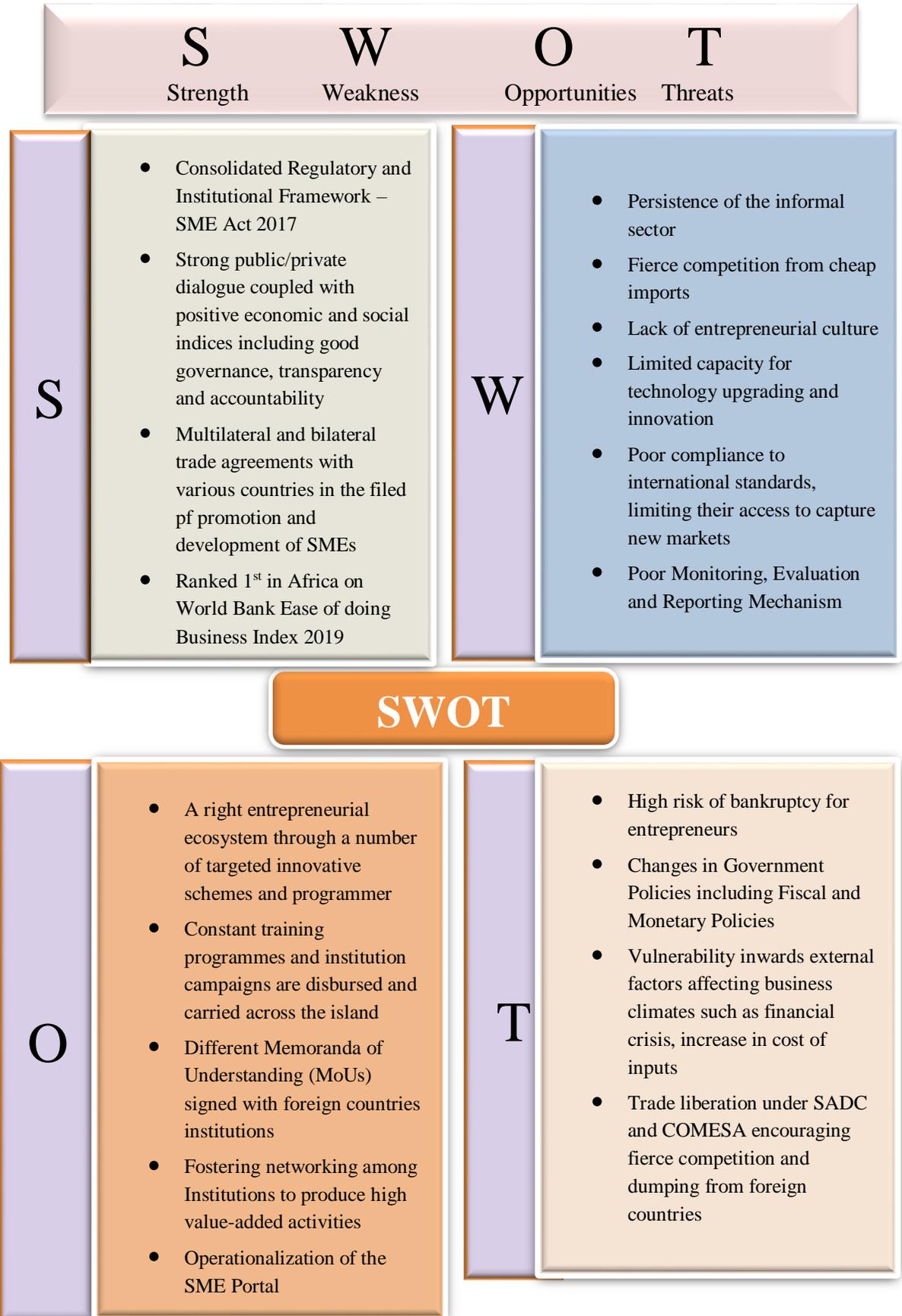
- ✚ The need to adapt to new US Tariffs in order to stay competitive.
- ✚ Restructuration of business models to adapt to the new normal and the re-training of employees to enhance product/service delivery.
- ✚ Widespread changes in work environment resulting in employees working from home.
- ✚ Greater 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.

### 13.3 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

## 14.0 SWOT ANALYSIS



## **15.0 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.

## 16.0 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.