Implementation and Monitoring of Open Government Data Initiatives in Mauritius

By

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Became Independent on 12 March 1968

Acceded to the status of Republic on 12 March 1992
Mauritius has an active plethora of religions in practice, the Hindus, the Christians, Muslims, Chinese and others. Even if they are of different faiths, Mauritians have always maintained a sublime accord between themselves and this is the golden key to the serenity that prevails in the whole island.
Population – 1,29 million
Population growth (annual %) – 0.4%
Overall Population density – 638 per km²
Life expectancy – 72 years
GDP – MUR 339 billion (USD 11.31 billion)
GDP growth (annual %) – 4.1%
Income per Capita – USD 15,000
Adult Literacy Rate – 85%
Economic Pillars

- Agro-industry
- Export Processing Zone
- Tourism
- Financial Sector
- IT to become a fifth pillar
Emerging Pillars

- Healthcare
- Knowledge based Industry
- Duty free shopping
- Creative Industry
  - Film Industry
  - Artistic Activities
Mauritius is a parliamentary democracy with a unicameral system of parliament, a National Assembly of elected MPs, based on the Westminster model with a clear separation of powers between the:

- **Legislature** - Power to make laws exercisable by Bills passed by the National Assembly and assented to by the President
- **Judiciary** - Structured judicial system consisting of Supreme, Intermediate and District Courts
- **Executive** - Administers the affairs of the nation, and is exercised by the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister
The Executive

- Prime Minister is appointed by the President based on the ability to command the majority in parliament.
- Cabinet Ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Cabinet Ministers are responsible for the business of their respective Ministries in Parliament.
- Cabinet solidarity and collective responsibility is a key principle of government.
The Secretary to Cabinet is also the Head of the Civil Service

He has overall responsibility for the proper functioning of a non-partisan and professional civil service which serves the government of the day

Supervising officers are accounting officers of Ministries / Departments
Structure / Overall Workforce of the Public Service

- 25 Ministries
- 45 Departments

Core Civil Service

- 50,000 Public Officers
- 26 Occupational Classes
- 1500 grades

Local Authorities
- 5 Municipalities &
- 4 Districts Councils

90 Parastatal Bodies
(Statutory Bodies, Public Enterprises)

 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLIC OFFICERS : 85,000

Workshop on the Next Stage in Open Government Data
10-12 October 2012
The overall vision of Government is to develop Mauritius into a Modern nation, enhance its competitiveness in the global market and improve the quality of life of the people.
Vision of the Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms

A Professional Public Service Committed to Excellence
OGD relates to Public Sector Information that are made available to the public as Open data.

- Information Transparency through Govt Portal, budget, Procurement and Policy transparency
- Citizen Engagement through e-Govt Services, Service Delivery Feedback Mechanism, voting
- Accountability achieved through anti corruption mechanism (Auditing, Ombudsman, ICAC)
The Government Online Centre (GOC)

GOC is the centralized data centre to provide Government Services to citizen, business persons, government officers and non-citizens abroad.

GOC has been designed with the appropriate IT Infrastructure to enable IT optimization in the public sector while at the same time providing comprehensive information on government services and enabling online applications on a 24 * 7 basis in a user friendly and fully secured manner through the Government Web Portal (www.gov.mu)
The Government Online Centre (GOC)

Services of the GOC

- Access applications online through one of its sub-portals
- 65 e-services for the citizen of Mauritius to interact with the Government anytime, anywhere and in real-time
- Email facilities to employees of Ministries/Departments connected through the Government Intranet Network System (GINS)
- Internet Access
New Features

- Trace location of different public services (health centres, police station etc.)
- Social Bookmarking
- Personalization
- Poll & Surveys
- System Rating
- Commenting
- Chat Rooms
- Discussion Board
- Shared/Send to a friend
- Intranet for all Ministries
- Bilingual (English/French)
Facilities to access information

- Wi-Fi areas around the country
- ADSL Package at low cost
- Loan facilities at low interest rate to purchase computers
- ICT education
- ICT Training programmes for citizens (including housewife, elderly)
- Computer Lab in Social Welfare Centre across the island
- Post office providing internet facilities
Data Protection Office and Data Protection Act

Data Protection is a fundamental component of today’s era of rapid technological and social change and the development of good data protection practices contributes to fostering public trust.

Data Protection also strikes the right balance between the concerns of Government and businesses, while respecting the fundamental rights of people.
Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act (DPA) – enacted in 2004 and proclaimed in February 2009.

- The objective of the DPA is:
  - to provide for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in view of the developments in the techniques used to capture, transmit, manipulate, record or store data relating to individuals.
  - to ensure that people know how the personal information about them is used or, at the very least, to know how others use that information.
Data Protection Office

- The DPO came into existence since 2009
  Mission - to protect the processing of personal information of all living individuals - processing covers all manual and automatic handling and/or uses of personal data.

The functions of the Data Protection Commissioner

- Issue or approve codes of practice or guidelines;
- Register all data controllers and processors in Mauritius;
- Investigate all data-protection related complaints;
- Exercise control on all data-processing activities in Mauritius through security checks, compliance audits, information notices and enforcement notices served on data controllers and processors, effecting entries and searches subject to a warrant by a magistrate; and
- Cooperate with other data protection authorities worldwide
Official Secret Act

- Introduced since 1972

- The Official Secrets Act protects against disclosure of information pertaining to national security.
Copyright ‘s Act

- Introduced in July 1997
- Provides the appropriate legal framework for the protection of intellectual property rights, including software and electronic databases.
- This law has paved the way for major information technology companies such as Microsoft to set up a regional office in Mauritius.
The Civil Status Office

- Has a collection of births, deaths and marriages and civil status certificates relating to the civil status of persons in Mauritius.

- Sub Offices of the Civil Status Office provide these information around the island.

- Currently working on a Central Population Database
- New Identity Card Project
Examples of Institutions Sharing Data

- Mahatma Gandhi Institute Folk Museum - The Archives of Indian Immigration
  The way to trace your ROOTS

The archive is a place for research and discovery of your roots. A wide range of historical information is available on the indentured immigrants. The MGI IIA has collection of:

- Arrival registers of nearly half a million indentured immigrants.
- Marriage Certificates (1850 - 1920)
- Contractual engagement and distribution documents (1842 – 1859)
Examples of Institutions Sharing Data

- Mahatma Gandhi Institute Folk Museum - The Archives of Indian Immigration
  - Correspondences and miscellaneous departmental records (1868-1920)
  - Unique collection of nearly 200,000 passport size photographs of Indian, Chinese, and African workers who came during the immigration period in the late 18th Century
**National Archives**  
*(the archive Act)*

Is an institution created in 1815

- Huge repository
  - Documents date as from 1722 and Maps and lithograph as from 16th century
- Government and para-statal agencies' administrative records are stored for future cross examination and evidence purposes.
- Conservation
  All norms and means of preserving, protecting are put in place, to lengthen their life span.
- Information accessed by University Students, researches, public at large and Govt officials.
Companies Division

The Companies Division is responsible for incorporating and regulating companies/Businesses including offshore companies as well and its mission is to:

- facilitate enterprise development, promote transparency and enhance competitiveness.

- ensure that the legislative framework governing our corporate sector is efficient, effective, responsive, user and investor friendly whilst promoting accountability, openness and fair dealing.
Companies Division

- **Other Services:** Reservation of Names, partnerships (*Sociétés*) and access to a centralised source of information e.g. Companies and Businesses Registration Integrated System, a web based portal that allows anyone to search for existing company names and related information.

- Due to this openness and accessibility of information, Companies are being incorporated within 3 working days.
Examples of Institutions Sharing Data

Statistics Mauritius

Statistics Mauritius is the official organisation responsible for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of the official statistical data relating to the economic and social activities of the country.

It releases regular publication namely:

- Economic & Social Indicators
- Digests of Statistics
- Census & Survey reports
- Mauritius in Figures
Statistics Mauritius

- Data are analyzed in almost all fields. Some examples are housing, population, environment, consumer, labour, Economic Activities, education, ICT, Construction, External Trade, crime Justice, Mauritius in figures, household budget, Tourism, energy, national accounts etc.

- Easy access to statistical data and publications on the website of Statistics Mauritius: http://statsmauritius.gov.mu and are also circulated in hard copies.

- Provide information to students, public, national and international organisations upon request.
Registrar General’s Department

Responsible for Registration of land, vehicle, immovable property and all notary deeds and documents has a repository system (collection of all deed paper)

Information regarding any land deed, ownership, lease agreement or any registered deed are easily available.
Supreme Court Online Library System

Online availability of all Bills, Acts and Regulations and Court Cases, Judgments

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10-12 October 2012
Newsletters from various Ministries/Departments are circulated among employees of the civil service and citizens of the country.

Some Examples

- DPP (court judgment & new legislations)
- Update of MCSAR (all reforms initiatives)
- GIS Newsletter (coverage of all happening events in the country and upcoming events)
- IT Security Newsletter (sensitization on all types of threats in this digital era)
The Land Administration, Valuation and Information Management System (LAVIMS) project is an initiative to modernise land administration. LAVIMS constitutes of four subprojects namely: Cadastre, Deeds, Valuation and Information Management System (IMS)

The Deeds component is taking all the paper records in the Registrar General's Department and converting them to digital copies. This process not only makes it easier to search for and recover information, but it also makes it more secure, as more than one copy of the information can be held in different locations
The LAVIMS project will create and manage vast amounts of information. This includes detailed aerial photo maps of the whole country; copies of every deed and survey plan relating to the sale and lease of land, going back over 250 years; and, valuation records for every property. Eventually these data will be available to government, the notaries and other users via the internet.
Mauritius was among the first countries to sign up for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and among the first four to be selected for review.

The APRM is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the African Union (AU) as an African self-monitoring mechanism. The Mechanism aims to put in motion a strategic re-orientation towards the validation of universal as well as African values and accelerate the process of intra-African cooperation and integration.
African Charter

- African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration

Mauritius is the second country after Kenya to have ratified the Charter, which is a useful instrument for modernisation and professionalization of the systems of public management and also contribute to a common language related to the public service in Africa.
Mauritius has signed and ratified this convention and is committed to regular monitoring.
Mauritius ranks 1st out of 53 African countries in 2010. Mo Ibrahim Index, an assessment of governance on the continent. The Ibrahim Index is published by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, an organization committed to supporting good governance and great leadership in Africa. The Index assesses the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by governments and non-state actors across 88 indicators.
House rated Mauritius a free country among 89 out of a total of 194 countries

The Political Rights and Civil Liberties Index produced by the Freedom House measures freedom on two categories namely:

- Political Rights enable people to participate freely in the political process, the right to vote freely in legitimate elections, compete for public office, join political parties and elect representatives who have a decisive impact on public policies and accountable to electorate.

- Civil Liberties allow for the freedoms of expression and belief, associational and organizational rights, rule of law, and personal autonomy without interference from the state.
Mauritius was ranked 55th out of the 139 economies in the 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) developed for the World Economic Forum and first introduced in 2004. The GCI is based on 12 pillars of competitiveness, providing a comprehensive picture of the competitiveness landscape in countries around the world at all stages of development such as:

- infrastructure,
- macroeconomic environment,
- health and primary education,
- higher education and training,
- labour market efficiency,
- financial market development,
- technological readiness,
- business sophistication,
- innovation.
The sound economic policy and good governance have made Mauritius the most business friendly destination in Africa.
The World Bank Doing Business survey ranked Mauritius No. 1 in Africa and 23rd globally in terms of ease of doing business.
Canadian Fraser Institute also ranked Mauritius 1st in Africa and 9th worldwide on its chart of economic freedom.
All Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards
Un Award – Public Administration
Public Service Excellence Awards (PSEA)

To honour and recognise units/divisions/departments that have excelled in adopting innovative approaches

To encourage innovation and excellence in the delivery of government services
The Public Service Excellence Award 2012 was launched last month and the theme is ‘Innovation & Citizen Engagement in Service Delivery’.
Thank You

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