

Introducing XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language)

"XBRL is a freely available and global standard for exchanging business information."

The Bank of Mauritius (BoM) is in the process of implementing an XBRL project for the automation of the Bank's entire data collection, management and processing system. This innovative infrastructure involves the setting up of an advanced report filing system as well as the establishment of a Data Warehouse and a Business Intelligence platform for users. Its implementation is phased into two: (1) the development of Taxonomy and Submission Platform; and (2) Automatic Data Flow (ADF).

With the hindsight that the Registrar of Companies (RoC) is envisaging the use of XBRL for data submission by companies, BoM and the former are working together to identify ways to reduce filers' burden, and avoid data duplication and error.

In line with the recommendation of the Statistics Board Committee on business data collection, BoM and RoC have agreed to share with SM data that will be collected, and to ensure that its data needs are taken onboard when developing this new infrastructure.

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 2005: A concern of all

The largest of our time is spent at our workplace, and very often we overlook the occupational and legal aspect of safety at work. To address this issue, two Safety and Health Officers from the Occupational Safety and Health Unit of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (MCSAR) were invited to conduct training/awareness sessions for SM staff.

SM staff were briefed on the major provisions of OSHA 2005 in the protection and promotion of a healthy working environment. The two Safety and Health Officers emphasised on shared responsibilities, both on part of the SM management to provide adequate occupational safety and its staff to mitigate the risks of hazards at work. Indeed, SM management is continuously engaging at its best in providing not only a safe working area but a pleasant one as well.

SM plays a crucial part in the Tripartite negotiations

October 2014 was a determining month for the Tripartite negotiations on salary compensation for the year 2015. Present during the roundtable discussions were representatives of the government, employers and employees to determine the quantum of salary compensation. As is the practice every year, SM provides statistics to facilitate informed decisions thereon.

At the first technical committee meeting, SM Director presented an outlook of the economy, covering growth, productivity, inflation and employment, and provided additional information on issues raised by representatives of employees and employers. To note that both employers and employees extensively used SM's statistics, particularly those on inflation, household expenditure, cost of CPI basket, and distribution of income to work out their proposals.

SM's involvement is also crucial in determining the cost on the salary compensation in the economy, and hence in assisting Government in determining the appropriate quantum.

African Development Bank (AfDB) team's visit to Mauritius

Since December 2011, SM is benefitting from technical assistance and financial aid in the realisation of its core projects under the Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) programme of the AfDB. To evaluate the SCB, the Bank fielded a mission from 27 to 31 October 2014 in Mauritius.

This meeting offered the local SCB committee and concerned officers the opportunity to discuss the progress and challenges of the various statistical activities such as Quality of Life Statistics, Data Development, Archiving and Dissemination, Statistical Business Register (SBR) and Infrastructure Statistics.

Towards the end of the mission, the Bank came forward with recommendations to improving the general management and administration of the grant, and further proposed to showcase the development of the SBR at SM during the World Statistics Congress in Brazil in 2015.