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Government Notice No. of 2008

THE FINANCE AND AUDIT ACT

Regulations made by the Minister under section 24 of the Finance and Audit Act

1. These regulations may be cited as the Finance and Audit (Food Security Fund) Regulations 2008.
2. In these regulations –
 - “AREU” means the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit;
 - “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Committee appointed under regulation 6;
 - “Committee” means the Committee referred to in regulation 6;
 - “Fund” means the Food Security Fund established under regulation 3;
 - “MSIRI” means the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute;
 - “member” –
 - (a) means a member of the Committee;
 - (b) and includes the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson;
 - “PIC” means the Project Implementation Committee set up by the Mauritius Sugar Authority;
 - “Vice-Chairperson” means the Vice-Chairperson appointed under regulation 6.
3. There is established for the purposes of these regulations the Food Security Fund.
4. The objects of the Fund shall be to finance –
 - (a) projects for mobilising land and aquatic resources, inputs for production, human resources, technology and financial resources to optimise food and livestock production locally for domestic consumption;
 - (b) promotion of surplus food production for exports so as to capture the maximum gains from economies of scale;

- (c) projects in partnership with countries in the region such as the Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and such other countries where opportunities arise to produce food-crops, livestock and marine products for domestic consumption as well as for the regional markets;
- (d) promotion of joint ventures with the support of regional blocs and development partners, both public and private, and with countries including India and China;
- (e) sensitisation campaigns to promote healthy eating; and
- (f) such other projects incidental to or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects.

5. The Fund shall consist of –

- (a) sums received from the Consolidated Fund;
- (b) contributions made by the private sector;
- (c) donations, grants and other receipts from any other persons and international organisations; and
- (d) any other sum which may lawfully accrue to the Fund.

6. (1) The Fund shall be administered and managed by a Committee which shall consist of –

- (a) a representative of the public sector, who shall be the Chairperson, to be appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry and fisheries;
- (b) a representative of the private sector, who shall be the Vice-Chairperson, to be appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry and fisheries;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for the subject of agro-industry and fisheries or his representative;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry;
- (e) the Accountant-General or his representative;
- (f) the Director of Fisheries;
- (g) a representative of the Chamber of Agriculture;

- (h) the Director of the MSIRI;
- (i) the Director of the AREU;
- (j) a representative of any development partner providing funds; and
- (k) three other persons, one of whom shall be from the Island of Rodrigues, to be appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry and fisheries.

(2) The Committee shall meet as often as is necessary but at least once every month, at such time and place and by using such medium as the Chairperson thinks fit.

(3) At any meeting of the Committee, 7 members shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee may co-opt such other persons as may be of assistance in relation to any matter before the Committee.

(5) Any person co-opted under paragraph (4) shall have no right to vote on any matter before the Committee.

(6) Every member shall be paid such allowances as may be approved by the Financial Secretary.

(7) Subject to this regulation, the Committee shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

7. (1) The Committee shall –

- (a) on the basis of proposals made by the Mauritius Sugar Authority, the Chamber of Agriculture, the MSIRI, the AREU, the Fisheries Division, the private sector and by any other person or on its own proposal, prepare and submit to the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry a 3 year strategic plan in line with programme-based budgeting indicating its visions and goals with a view to attaining the objects of the Fund;
- (b) examine projects in line with the strategic plan;
- (c) prepare an implementation plan relating to the projects with full details including sources of funding and timeframe for their completion and seek financial clearance from the Ministry; and

(d) seek approval of the projects from the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry.

(2) (a) The Committee shall set up such technical committees as may be required to assist the Committee in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities under paragraph (1)(a), (b) and (c) and paragraph (3).

(b) Any technical committee set up under paragraph (a) shall consist of such persons, including members of the Committee and the PIC, as may be necessary.

(3) The Committee shall, within one month after the end of every quarter, submit a progress report on the implementation of the projects to the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry, with a copy to the Financial Secretary.

(4) The Committee shall at least once every year review and update the strategic plan.

8. The Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry may designate such public officers as may be necessary to enable the Committee to discharge its duties and responsibilities under these regulations.

9. The Ministry shall periodically review the achievements of the Fund in relation to its objects and take such appropriate measures as it deems fit regarding the Fund.

10. The Committee shall, not later than 3 months after the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Director of Audit –

(a) an annual statement of the receipts and payments for that financial year; and

(b) a balance sheet made up to the end of that financial year showing the assets and liabilities of the Fund.

11. The Committee shall, as soon as practicable, after the end of each financial year, submit to the Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry –

(a) a report dealing with the activities and financial position of the Fund during that financial year; and

(b) a copy of the audited accounts of the Fund for that financial year, together with the audit report on those accounts.

12. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed so as to authorise expenditure in excess of the money standing to the credit of the Fund.

13. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the surplus money of the Fund shall be invested in such manner as may be approved by the Minister, after consultation with the Committee.

(2) The Minister may approve the transfer of any amount of the surplus money of the Fund to the Consolidated Fund.

14. The Minister responsible for the subject of agro-industry shall, at the earliest available opportunity, lay a copy of the annual report and audited accounts of the Fund before the Assembly.

15. In case of winding up of the Fund, the assets and liabilities of the Fund shall accrue to the Consolidated Fund.

Made by the Minister on 20th June 2008.