Towards a better supply of water throughout the island
Mission

To secure and provide an excellent sustainable water supply service of appropriate quality, at a reasonable price, which meets the growing needs of the people, and supports the economic development of the country.

Vision

To excel in the provision of an uninterrupted round the clock service of world class standard throughout the year to the entire population of Mauritius.

Values

Responsiveness, Courtesy, Excellence, Integrity, Teamwork, Quality
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BOARD’S RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Central Water Board is responsible for the proper keeping of accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Central Water Authority (CWA).

In line with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act as subsequently amended, the Authority shall, not later than four months after the end of every Financial Year, prepare and submit an annual report, including the financial statements to the Auditor.

Financial Statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in compliance with the International Accounting Standards (IASS) / International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

The Board is also responsible for the integrity of these annual financial statements and for the objectivity of any information presented therein.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board has:
- maintained proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Authority;
- ensured that the financial statements provide an integral and transparent state of affairs, Income and Expenditure Account and cash flows of the Authority;
- selected suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently;
- safeguarded the assets of the Authority by maintaining appropriate internal control systems and procedures;
- taken reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and any other irregularities;
- prepared same on a going concern basis;
- made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

Internal Control

The Board has an overall responsibility for the safeguarding of assets of the Authority and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. An Audit & Risk Committee has been set up to assist the Board in discharging its oversight duty and responsibility and ensuring the integrity of financial statements, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements and an effective performance of the Internal Audit function.

The Authority has an established Internal Audit function which assists management in effectively discharging its responsibilities. The Internal Audit is an independent function that reports directly to the Audit & Risk Committee.

Corporate Governance

The Board, confirms to the best of its knowledge that the Central Water Authority has complied with all its obligations and requirements under the Code of Corporate Governance.

Signed by: [Signature]
Name: G. François Desmarais
Role: Chairperson, CWB
Date: 28 April 2015

Signature: [Signature]
Name: Youssef Ismaïl
Role: Member, CWB
Date: 28 April 2015
CHAIRMAN’S
OVERVIEW
The Central Water Board (CWB) has been entrusted with the mandate of maintaining a sound governance framework at the CWA. The Board has promoted and sustained a clean, high performing, accountable and transparent administration. This has been possible through a steadfast adherence to the principles of good governance which is the ultimate driver in building public trust in any institution.

I have recognition for management and staff who are working hard to deliver quality and value to our customers and to contain operational costs. The year 2014 has not been an easy year on many fronts. The acute drought conditions, experienced towards the end of the year, were short lived but their effects were far reaching and even left their mark on the political landscape. Water is a basic human right and indispensable for a decent standard of living. Therefore, the population must be provided with at least a minimum supply of potable water. With globalization and rising standards of living, customer expectations have also risen.

In the foregoing year, some 100,000 families continued to pay a minimum price of Rs 55/- which is the lifeline tariff, applicable to a consumption up to 10 cubic metre of potable water.

During the year under review, an additional 10,000 needy families were able to benefit from the Water Tank Grant Scheme jointly managed by MEPU/CWA. They received a grant of Rs 4,000 each for the purchase of household water tanks and hence, some 28,000 additional families were able to have a buffer supply since the launch of the scheme.

Mauritius has, since long, achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as far as access to safe drinking water is concerned. Under the Post 2015 UN Agenda, the MDGs converge into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the latter tries to build upon the former. Countries would be required to comply with a greater set of parameters under the SDGs. Mauritius would be no exception.

Around mid 2014, Government adopted the National Water Policy which provides strategic guidance to all water related institutions. It is a broad framework to promote sustainable development of the water sector and advocates the principle of an integrated water resources management, which ensures a more holistic approach to addressing water sector issues. The absence of a formal policy document inevitably leads to ad-hoc and fragmented decisions and actions.

Climate change has been a growing concern for the past decade now. For CWA, it has direct consequences. Average mean annual rainfall has been fluctuating both in intensity and spatial distribution and this adversely impacts on the level of water resources available. During drought period, the boreholes, which constitute 50% of our sources, get dried up faster than reservoirs. Some regions are more affected than others. CWA is working on different and appropriate pre-emptive measures to avoid similar situations in the future. On the other hand, funding has been a major constraint for the Authority. Given that water tariffs do not keep pace with inflationary tendencies and are not even at cost covering levels, business continuity is at stake. Unless Government steps in and funding agents provide the necessary finances, it is feared that not much can be achieved to build resilience against these climatic fluctuations.

Given the above constraints, I am glad to report that CWA has embarked on a Risk Management Programme. Our Water Management Strategy will henceforth be geared towards minimizing corporate risks. Before devising a Water Management Plan, all risks: operational, reputational, regulatory, financial and environmental should be analysed to ensure a robust strategy with a collaborative approach to a shared problem. Without a properly worked out risk mitigation plan, supported with adequate resources, it is difficult for an institution like CWA to cope with emerging challenges.