

# **STATEMENT**

**Mrs M. A. BHUJOHORY - Ag. CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

I favourably welcome the requirement for Councils to prepare and adopt their annual report on activities carried out during the preceding financial year ending 31 December, in line with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2011.

The annual report is a means whereby a Local Authority can best put forward its achievements, assess its weaknesses in service delivery, gauge the available or needed opportunities to improve on present situation and to identify the threats and challenges that lie ahead.

I am sure that the annual report will serve as an information tool which will foster the principles of transparency and accountability.

*Date: 27 September 2013*

# **THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER**

**THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER** is located in the Western part of the island. It is a corporate body created on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1989 to administer the villages stretching from Richelieu up to Le Morne including the Chamarel village, in line with the duties and responsibilities set down under the Local Government Act 1989 and subsequently the Local Government Act 2011.

## **CORE VALUES**

**OUR MISSION:** To ensure that all the statutory duties, including services, are delivered promptly in accordance with the ever changing expectations of the public.

**OUR VISION:** To be a Local Authority achieving excellence in its undertakings whilst being a close partner to all stakeholders.

**OUR VALUE STATEMENT:** The Inhabitants of the District of Black River are the centre of all our endeavours and the Human Resource of this Council is our main strength in the endeavour to provide timely, quality based, dedicated, customer oriented, innovative and high standard services. We will do our best within our financial means and human resources available to achieve excellence in service delivery.

## **SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER**

**Head Office** : *Geoffroy Road, Bambous*

**Website** : <http://www.brdc.mu>

**E-mail** : [brdc@mail.la.gov.mu](mailto:brdc@mail.la.gov.mu)

**Hotline** : 452-1502

**Tel** : 452-0304 / 452-0921 / 452-1113

**Fax** : 452-0303

SN	VILLAGE	POPULATION	HOUSING UNITS	COMMERCIAL UNITS
1	Albion	3,687	2,135	150
2	Bambous	14,778	4,250	900
3	Cascavelle	2,959	650	79
4	Case Noyale	1,726	500	25
5	Chamarel	819	225	90
6	Flic en Flac	2,276	3,300	250
7	La Gaulette	2,508	800	95
8	Grande Rivière Noire	2,673	1,150	275
9	Gros Cailloux	3,807	800	60
10	Le Morne	1,495	425	136
11	Petite Rivière	6,039	1,225	375
12	Richelieu	5,886	1,425	75
13	Tamarin	4,266	1,650	457
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>52,919</b>	<b>18,535</b>	<b>2,967</b>

**Area (Km<sup>2</sup>)** : 325

**Population Density (p)** : 162.8

**Length of road (Km)** : 327.4  
(including classified roads)

Prior to the coming into force of the Local Government Act 2011, the Villages of Bel Ombre, Baie du Cap and Pailles were under the jurisdiction of the District Council of Black River.

The District Council of Black River is twinned with the District of Anse Boileau, Seychelles since year 2004.

**PLACES OF ATTRACTION:** The District Council of Black River is known for having, in addition to its beautiful beaches, several attractive places with beautiful sceneries or else of interest which are visited by tourists and the local population.

SN	VILLAGE COUNCIL AREA	PLACES OF ATTRACTION
1	Albion	- Light House - Pointe aux Caves
2	Bambous	- La Ferme Reservoir - Cascavelle Shopping Mall - Médine Sugar Factory
3	Cascavelle	- Casela Bird Park
4	Flic en Flac	- Public beach and restaurants
5	Gros Cailloux	- Gros Cailloux Garden (Plant Nursery) - Jewish Cemetery at St Martin Mont Roches
6	Tamarin	- Salt Pans - Public beach and surf spot - Place Cap Tamarin - Shopping Malls and restaurants
7	Grande Rivière Noire	- Black River Gorges - Natural Park - Martello Tower - Batterie de L'harmonie - La Preneuse Public Beach - Shopping Malls (Ruisseau Créoles, Nautica, etc)
8	La Gaulette	- Access to Ile aux Benitiers from Fish Landing Station
9	Chamarel	- Viewpoints - Seven Coloured Earth - Restaurants and Rhumerie de Chamarel
10	Le Morne	- Kite surfing - Slave Abolition Monument at Le Morne Brabant

**COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL:** The District Council of Black River is composed of 14 Councillors. Each of the Village Councils elects one Councillor to sit as District Councillor, except the Village Council of Bambous where two Councillors are elected being given that the population in that village is more than 10,000 inhabitants. Councillors hold office for a term of 6 years beginning on the day they take oath after having been elected.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Council are elected from among District Councillors at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

The term of office of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman is for a period of 2 years.

However, they are eligible for re-election after such period.

SN	NAME	REPRESENTATIVE OF VILLAGE COUNCIL
1	ALIPHON Alain Jean-Nel <i>District Councillor</i>	ALBION
2	BAUDA Jean Eurick <i>District Councillor</i> MUNGRA Ajitsing <i>District Councillor</i>	BAMBOUS
4	POONA Louis Christian <i>District Councillor</i>	CASCADELLE
5	LEU Marie Véronique (GOVIND) <i>District Councillor</i>	CASE NOYALE
6	SEESAHYE Jean Berty <i>District Councillor</i>	CHAMAREL
7	DANSANT Jean - Yves <i>District Councillor</i>	FLIC EN FLAC
8	PAPECHE Nicole Marie Anne <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	GRANDE RIVIÈRE NOIRE
9	ORTOO Kemraz <i>District Councillor</i>	GROS CAILLOUX
10	LAMARQUE Louis Chérubin <i>District Councillor</i>	LA GAULETTE
11	JEAN Clayvie <i>District Councillor</i>	LE MORNE
12	BISSESSUR Anil Kumar <i>District Councillor</i>	PETITE RIVIÈRE
13	FABIENNE Désiré Henrico <i>District Councillor</i>	RICHELIEU
14	CHETTY Noël Oxsinice <i>Chairperson</i>	TAMARIN

**REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS:** In line with the provision in the Local Government Act, members of the Council were being remunerated as follows:-

<b>Chairperson</b>	: Rs 29,000
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	: Rs 14,000
<b>District Councillors</b>	: Rs 7,400
<b>Chairperson Village Councils</b>	: Rs 4,650

These allowances have subsequently been increased and payment of remuneration has been extended to Vice-Chairperson of Village Councils and Village Councillors. A new rate is also being paid to members of the Executive Committee.

## **SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL**

<b>SN</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>POST</b>
1	<b>M. A. BHUJOHORY</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Ag. Chief Executive
2	<b>G. RUGHOO</b>	Ag. Deputy Chief Executive
3	<b>M. JALIM</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Assistant Chief Executive – Village Councils
4	<b>S. DODAH</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Human Resource and Management Officer
5	<b>Y. J. UBHEERAM</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Human Resource Officer
6	<b>L. SUNASSEE</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Safety and Health Officer
7	<b>S. MADOUBACAS</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Ag. Principal Accountant
8	<b>L. NANINE</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Principal Financial Officer
9	<b>R. LUCHMUN</b>	Principal Financial Officer
10	<b>P. BALLOO</b>	Head, Public Infrastructure Department
11	<b>K. N. LI KUM FONG</b>	Civil Engineer
12	<b>B. NARAYEN</b>	Chief Inspector of Works
13	<b>S. FOWDAR</b>	Supervisor Lighting Section
14	<b>N. D. HOSSENALLY</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Information Technology Officer / System Administrator
15	<b>A. LATTOO</b> ( <i>Ms</i> )	Internal Auditor
16	<b>R. SOOKUN</b>	Chief Health Inspector
17	<b>M. N. GHASEETA</b>	Principal Health Inspector
18	<b>M. P. SONEEA</b>	Senior Health Inspector
19	<b>R. PHUL</b>	Head, Land Use and Planning Department
20	<b>D.KOONJUL</b>	Planning Officer ( <i>on leave</i> )

# **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:** As per the Local Government Act 2011, the District Council meets in ordinary meetings as often as its businesses so require and at least once every fortnight for its normal transaction.

Meetings of the Council are chaired by Mr N. D. O. Chetty, Chairperson of the Council.

In addition to the above meetings, the Council usually conveys socio-cultural organisations, and sporting clubs in view of the holding of events/activities.

Hereunder are details of the number of Council and Committee Meetings held during the year 2012:-

SN	MEETING	NO. OF MEETING
1	Council Meeting	30
2	Executive Meeting	48
3	PBMC	50
4	Procurement Committee	54
5	Other Meeting	20 (approximately)

## **COMMITTEES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** In line with the Local Government Act, an Executive Committee has been established by the Council with the duties and powers to determine applications for Outline Planning Permissions and Building and Land Use Permits and to approve Procurement of Goods and services for which the value exceeds Rs 100,000.

The term of office of an Executive Committee lasts 2 years commencing after the election of the Chairperson of the District Council.

Composition of the Executive Committee:-

<i>Chairperson</i>	: Mr N. D. O. Chetty
<i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	: Mrs N. M. A. Papêche
<i>Member</i>	: Mrs M. V. Leu
<i>Member</i>	: Mr J. Y. Dansant
<i>Member</i>	: Mr D. H. Fabienne
<i>Member</i>	: Mr A. Mungra
<i>Member</i>	: Mr L. C. Poona

Every decision taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next Council Meeting.

As per Section 117(12) (a) of the Local Government Act, in the event that a decision or recommendation of the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee is rejected by the Executive Committee, the matter is referred to the Minister for determination.

**THE PERMITS AND BUSINESS MONITORING COMMITTEE (PBMC):** It comprises the Chief Executive or his/her representative as Chairperson and the Heads of the Finance, Land Use and Planning, the Public Infrastructure Department or their representatives.

The PBMC processes every application for an Outline Planning Permission or a Building and Land Use Permit, having regard to the provisions of the Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act and the Planning and Development Act and any guidelines issued under those Acts.

**PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE:** Any procurement of goods by the Council is determined by a Procurement Committee comprising:-

- ~ *The Chief Executive or his / her Deputy*
- ~ *The Financial Controller or his / her Deputy*
- ~ *One Senior Officer in charge of a department other than that of the Administrative and the Finance Departments.*

Any procurement exceeding the value of Rs 100,000 requires the approval of the Executive Committee.

## **DEPARTMENTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER**

The following departments form part of the administration of the Council:-

- ~ *Administrative Department*
- ~ *The Finance Department*
- ~ *The Land Use and Planning Department*
- ~ *The Public Infrastructure Department*
- ~ *The Public Health Department*
- ~ *The Welfare Department*

All the departments of the Council are under the supervision of the Ag. Chief Executive.

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT:** It acts as the spearhead for the other departments of the District Council. It represents the central administration and is headed by the Chief Executive, who has, among others, the responsibility for the overall administration of the Council and to coordinate and ensure the smooth running of works in all the departments and sections.

The Chief Executive is assisted by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Executives in carrying out his/her duties.

The Administration Department comprises the following:-

***-Human Resource Management Section***

***-The Committee Section***

***-The Internal Audit Section***

***-Information Technology Section***

***-Registry***

**THE INFORMATION SERVICE DESK (ISD)** which was set up in 2001 also falls under the Administration Section. The ISD has become an

instrument to instil a new mindset for more concern about better performance and perpetual movement towards reduction in the number of probable complaints.

**ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE:** The Council has already embarked in the implementation of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework.

It is a means for the Council to further support its fight against corruption and arouse the attention of each and every one on its unflinching commitment for zero corruption.

An Anti-Corruption Committee has been set up at the level of the Council and subsequently met on two occasions where Heads of Departments were invited to submit probable corruption risk areas for their respective departments.

## **THE HUMAN RESOURCE SECTION**

The District Council of Black River operates in a dynamic environment. The demands, aspirations and expectations of its local community for an effective, efficient and better quality service have increased. The Council hence constitutes of people working together to achieve its objectives and, it relies heavily on its Human Resource which is the pivot on which the wheel of any organisation turns.

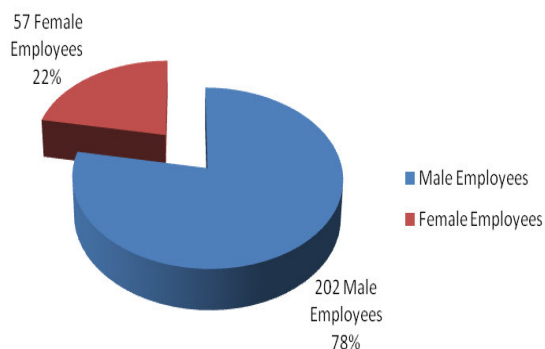
The aim of Human Resource Section at the District Council of Black River is to provide a fully competent, professional, well-motivated and diverse workforce capable of delivering a first class service.

The section is headed by the Human Resource Management Officer, who is assisted by the Human Resource Officer and one Clerical Officer.

At present, the Council has a workforce of over 250 employees distributed among the six different departments. Staff cost represents a large proportion of the council's recurrent budget. The gross staffing cost for year 2012 amounted to Rs 73,559,025 representing 44% of the District Council's gross expenditure for the year.

### **EMPLOYEES ON ESTABLISHMENT AND IN POST:**

As at 31 December 2012, there were 307 posts on the establishment of the Council and 259 employees in post out of which there were 202 male employees and 57 female.



Department	No. in Post	Male	Female
Administration Department	76	42	34
Finance Department	15	10	5
Public Infrastructure Department	101	100	1
Welfare Department	12	2	10
Land Use and Planning Department	13	8	5
Public Health Department	42	40	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>57</b>

**FILLING OF VACANCIES FOR YEAR 2012:** The recruitment exercise for all Local Authorities is carried out by the Local Government Service Commission.

Post	No of persons recruited	Male	Female
Civil Engineer	1	1	-
Burial Ground Attendant (Roster)	1	1	-
Senior Word Processing Operator	1	-	1
Planning Inspector	1	1	-
Library Attendant	1		1
General Worker	2	2	-
Clerical Officer/Higher Clerical Officer	7	6	1
Attendant	1	1	-
Handy Worker (Special Class)	2	2	-
Executive Officer	1	-	1
Assistant Financial Operations Officer	1	-	1
Assistant Chief Executive	1	-	1
Senior Inspector of Works	1	1	-
Assistant Building Inspector	1	1	-

### **RETIREMENT DURING YEAR 2012**

No of persons retired	Post	Male	Female
1	Painter	1	-

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:** Much emphasis is laid by the Management on training and development.

It is a known fact that one of the ways to achieve good performance is through training and development.

Employees are encouraged to undergo training that will help them to upgrade their skills and improve on performance and service delivery. To this end, relevant employees are released every year to follow courses dispensed by the University of Technology on Public Procurement or attend workshops/talks on subjects/issues like safety, health and welfare, construction, manual handling, fire safety, etc.

The employees of the Council are considered to be the main resource in the attainment of the Council's vision and mission. To this end, much attention is paid to the welfare of the employees so as to keep them motivated and empower them to perform in a conducive work environment. The sound health of the Human Resource of this Council is thus of great concern to the Council. The following activities were organised to this end with the previous collaboration of the Safety and Health Officer of the Council:-

- ~ *Eye Screening Tests by Agarwal's Eye Hospital on 27 June 2012.*
- ~ *Talk on Breast and Cervical Cancer by Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association on 04 July 2012.*
- ~ *Training on manual handling and fire safety for Attendants posted in Village Halls and cloakrooms on 05 September 2012.*
- ~ *First Aid Training (Refresher Course) on 19 November 2012 to participants who attended the First Aid Course the previous year.*



## **THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Finance Department is responsible for:

- ~ *The collection of all revenues accruing to the Council*
- ~ *Effecting all payments for goods and services including salaries to its employees*
- ~ *Preparing of the yearly estimates and yearly financial statements for submission to the Ministry and the National Audit Office respectively*
- ~ *Procurement of goods and services for the Council*
- ~ *The overall financial administration of the Council providing financial advice, financial information and exercises financial control on all financial transactions.*

The department comprises the following sections:

- ~ *Income*
- ~ *Expenditure*
- ~ *Payroll*
- ~ *Stores*

**GRANT IN AID:** The total recurrent budget of the Council for the year 2012 was Rs 177,457,649. It was financed mainly from the grant in aid received from the Government and the Council's own source of revenue. The amount of grant in aid received was Rs 109,324,000, representing 67% of the total revenue. An additional grant of Rs 17 million was received to meet the costs for scavenging services and street lighting for the year ending 31 December 2012.

Council's own source of revenue:

- ~ *Trade Fees*
- ~ *Advertising Fees*
- ~ *Scavenging Fees*
- ~ *Building and Land Use Permit*

With the coming into force of the Local Government Act 2011, Pailles village now falls under the jurisdiction of the City Council of Port Louis. Consequently the revenue from trade fees has decreased by Rs 1.8 million approximately. Moreover, with the proclamation of the Finance Act No. 37 of 2011, fees leviable on advertising structures namely billboards are now paid at the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

Consequently, the collection of revenue from advertising fees has decreased by 85% from 2011 to 2012.

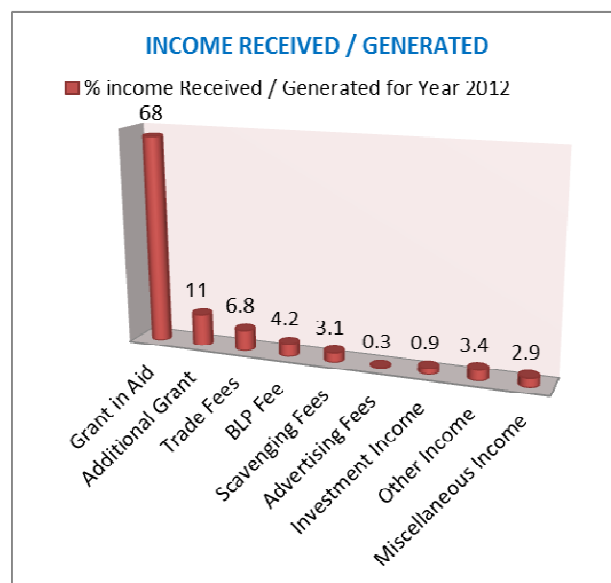
**CLASSIFIED TRADES:** Any person who wishes to carry out a classified trade shall register with the Registrar of Companies and seek a Building and Land Use Permit (where applicable) at the Land Use and Planning Department of the Council.

The payment of fees, dues and charges in respect of classified trades is due by the 01 January of each year and is payable by the person

- (i) *Within 15 days of the start of a classified trade; and*
- (ii) *Thereafter in respect of every subsequent financial year, in two instalments, the first one on or before 31 January and the second on or before 31 July of that same next year.*

A surcharge of 50% shall be leviable on any amount not paid within the period specified above.

**INCOME FOR YEAR 2012:** Income received for the year 2012 is detailed as follows:-



**PROGRAMME-BASED BUDGETING (PBB):** There are five programmes and the respective budgets allocated to each department are detailed as follows:

~ **Programme 1: Policy and Management of the Council - Rs 43,288,712**

*(Administration and Finance Department)*

~ **Programme 2: Provision and Maintenance of Community Based Amenities - Rs 51,760,990**

*(Public Infrastructure Department)*

~ **Programme 3: Development control within the Council's Area - Rs 6,213,368**

*(Land Use and Planning Department)*

~ **Programme 4: Sound and Healthy Conditions in the Council's Area - Rs 70,510,341**

*(Public Health Department)*

~ **Programme 5: Promotion of Sports, Welfare, Education and Cultural Development - Rs 5,684,238**

*(Welfare Department)*

#### **SUMMARY PBB FOR YEAR 2012**

Code	Economic Categories	Compensation of Employees (code 21)	Goods and Services (code 22)	Subsidies/ grants/Social Benefits (codes 25 - 28)	Acquisition of Assets (codes 31 - 32)
1	Policy and Management of the Council	30,728,101	6,796,000	5,414,611	350,000
2	Provision and Maintenance of Community-Based Infrastructure and Amenities	28,291,534	23,200,000	269,456	0
3	Development Control within Council's Area	5,168,106	468,000	577,262	0
4	Sound and Healthy Conditions in the Council's Area	14,794,501	55,715,840	0	0
5	Promotion of Sports, Welfare, Education and Cultural Development	2,474,238	1,615,000	1,595,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>81,456,480</b>	<b>87,794,840</b>	<b>7,856,329</b>	<b>350,000</b>

The main challenges as addressed in the Programme Based Budget for the Finance Department and its related outcomes, for the years 2010, 2011 & 2012 are explained below:-

SN	CHALLENGES	OUTCOMES
1	Review Grant in aid to enable more realistic funding of services.	Grant in aid has increased by 1.2-2.5%, however the Council has faced financial difficulties to meet its recurrent expenditure.
2	Reduce arrears of revenue	Collection of outstanding revenue is in progress, however there are many cases of fictitious debtors after migration of data from old to new system. Needful is being done to tackle this issue.
3	New sources of income such as collection of scavenging fees from households and revised trade fees from restaurants & hotels.	Necessary action has been initiated to introduce such fees.
4	(i) Reduce cost of scavenging services by reducing collection of households refuse from twice to once weekly.	Collection of households refuse is being provided once weekly since the award of latest contract.
	(ii) Provide in-house scavenging services	Due to lack of funds this measure could not be implemented

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR 2012

1			
<b>THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER</b>			
<b><u>Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2012</u></b>			
<b>2011</b>		<b>2012</b>	
Rs.	Note	Rs.	Rs.
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
126,830,746	Capital Outlay (2)		134,940,689
323,866,500	Other Long Term Outlay (2)		339,124,738
9,973,226	<b>LONG TERM INVESTMENT</b> (3)		38,428,537
<b>460,670,472</b>			<b>512,493,964</b>
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
33,000,000	Short Term Investments (4)	3,000,000	
1,183,780	Stock (1)	1,198,293	
895,742	Debtors (5)	1,505,924	
24,943,619	Cash and bank (6)	23,500,077	
<b>60,023,140</b>		<b>29,204,294</b>	
	<b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
3,332,537	Bank overdraft	-	
4,896,442	Creditors (7)	4,265,608	
1,566,134	Deposits	1,881,752	
<b>9,795,114</b>		<b>6,147,360</b>	
50,228,026	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>23,056,934</b>
<b>510,898,498</b>			<b>535,550,898</b>
	<b>FINANCED BY</b>		
69,158,834	District Council Fund (8)	65,269,672	
399,539,141	Capital Grant (11)	422,670,511	
26,950,543	Superannuation Fund	35,411,983	
	<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
	<b>PROVISIONS</b>		
3,792,581	Passage Fund	3,901,639	
11,457,399	<b>OTHER BALANCES</b> (12)	8,297,093	
<b>510,898,498</b>			<b>535,550,898</b>
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<b>Mr D.O. Noël Chetty</b>		<b>M A Bhujohory (Ms)</b>	
<i>Chairman</i>		<i>Ag Chief Executive</i>	

**THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER**

**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st December 2012**

	Dec-11	Dec-12
	Rs	Rs
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Government Grant In Aid	143,734,057	126,324,000
Investment Income	2,699,291	1,483,018
Rentals	16,800	25,550
Fees – 8 <sup>th</sup> Schedule	12,673,000	10,926,775
Publicity Fees	3,248,402	473,615
Scavenging Fees	4,390,175	4,984,950
Permits	7,121,523	6,745,762
Other Income	2,234,694	6,053,947
Independence & other grants	4,084,100	4,950,300
	180,202,041	161,967,916
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Staff costs	63,370,587	68,217,239
Supplies and Services	79,473,595	82,534,631
Transport costs	2,359,622	2,086,767
Other administration costs	4,175,383	1,623,415
Financial charges	18,054	20,109
Social and Cultural activities	1,708,293	1,629,818
Grants and subsidies	2,165,903	2,221,646
Contribution to funds	5,164,245	5,341,786
Pension and Gratuities	5,622,260	3,780,030
	164,057,942	167,455,442
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>16,144,099</b>	<b>(5,487,526)</b>

**THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER**

**Cash Flow Statement for the year ending 31st December 2012**

		<b>Dec-11</b>	<b>Dec-12</b>
		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>			
Cash received from Grant-in-Aid		144,460,000	126,324,000
Cash received from Rates & Taxes		7,655,377	5,484,115
Cash received from Fees – 8 <sup>th</sup> Schedule		14,991,600	10,926,775
Cash received from other sources		23,817,374	27,351,352
Cash received from Fees – 10 <sup>th</sup> Schedule		7,121,523	6,745,762
		198,045,873	176,832,004
Cash payment to suppliers/contractors, etc.		(90,309,203)	(90,421,432)
Cash paid to and on behalf of employees		(94,996,952)	(100,422,542)
<i>Net Cash Inflow from operating activities</i>		12,739,718	(14,011,971)
<b>Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance</b>			
Interest received on investment		2,704,432	1,527,052
Interest paid on loan / debentures/bank charges		(18,054)	(20,109)
<i>Net Cash Outflow from R.O.I. and S.O.F.</i>		2,686,378	1,506,943
<b>Investing Activities</b>			
Investments		-	-
Payment to increase Capital Outlay		(33,502,152)	(24,730,163)
<i>Net cash outflow from investing activities</i>		(33,502,152)	(24,730,163)
<b>Financing Activities</b>			
Transfer of funds		311,673	9,626,349
Government Grants		29,249,575	26,218,440
<i>Net Cash Inflow from financing activities</i>		29,561,248	35,844,788
<i>Sub-total</i>		<b>11,485,192</b>	<b>(1,390,402)</b>
Cash Inflow from Retention Fund		1,593,032	626,417
<b>Net Decrease in Cash</b>		<b>13,078,224</b>	<b>(763,985)</b>

## THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER

### Notes to the Account

#### 1 Accounting Policies

(i) The Accounts have been prepared on a historical cost basis and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

(ii) In line with accounting practice applicable for local authorities no depreciation is charged in the Accounts.

(iii) All income have been taken on a cash basis.

(iv) Stock has been valued at lower of cost and net realisable value.

(v) Amount due in respect of levies and scavenging fees have been disclosed as notes to Accounts.

#### 2 Fixed Assets

##### (i) Capital Outlay Schedule

Balance as at 01.01.2012 Rs	Additions Rs	Deductions Rs	Balance as at 31.12.2012 Rs
126,830,746	8,109,943		134,940,689

##### (ii) Other Long Term Capital Outlay

Balance as at 01.01.2012 Rs	Additions Rs	Deductions Rs	Balance as at 31.12.2012 Rs
323,866,500	15,258,238	-	339,124,738

##### (iii) Schedule for Capital Outlay as at 31 December 2012

	<u>Opening Balance as at 01.01.12</u> Rs.	<u>Additions</u> Rs.	<u>Disposal</u>	<u>Closing Balance as at 31.12.12</u> Rs.
Land & Building	54,560,170	2,273,115	-	56,833,285
Capital Projects in villages	354,969,756	20,858,255	-	375,828,011
Motor Vehicles	15,361,542	-	-	15,361,542
Tools & Equipment	3,154,526	15,405	-	3,169,931
Sports Equipment	1,617,767	-	-	1,617,767
Furniture & Equipment	21,033,485	221,407	-	21,254,891
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450,697,245</b>	<b>23,368,181</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>474,065,427</b>

## THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER

### Notes to the Account

#### 3 Long Term Investments

	<u>Opening Balance as at 01.01.12</u> Rs.	<u>Additions</u> Rs.	<u>Transfers</u> Rs.	<u>Closing Balance as at 31.12.12</u> Rs.
Renewal Fund	3,022,683	751,371	757,500	3,016,554
Superannuation fund	6,950,543	28,885,581	424,141	35,411,983
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,973,226</b>	<b>29,636,952</b>	<b>1,181,641</b>	<b>38,428,537</b>

[illegible]

## THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLACK RIVER

### Notes to the Account

#### 12 Other Balances

Account name	Opening balance as at 01.01.12	Additions	Payments	Adjustments	Closing balance as at 31.12.12
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Capital Grant 07/08 & LIF 08/09	1,451,017	-	1,222,935	-	228,082
Morcellement Fund	827,902	109,000	-	-	936,902
LIF ICBA 2010,Cap Projects Rs8M & MCP Rs 10M	6,264,932	-	4,928,810	-	1,336,122
Other projects	2,061,168	600,000	710,140	-	1,951,028
Development projects Rs9.9m & ACP	-	19,503,454	16,510,874	-	2,992,580
Other Grant -Mins of Tourism- Chamarel	119,414	-	-	-	119,414
NDU Rs 15M	191,389	-	-	-	191,389
Land Drainage	274,983	-	-	-	274,983
Deposit A/C Embellishment Bsonges Kovil	266,595	-	-	-	266,595
	<b>11,457,398</b>	<b>20,212,454</b>	<b>23,372,759</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,297,093</b>

#### 13 Contingent liability

Project - Construction of drains Morcellement Carlos, Tamarin

Contractor - Gamma Civic Ltd

The Contractor had made a claim in July 2007 for loss and expense for an amount of Rs 31,601,769/- excluding VAT in respect of contract for the construction of drains at Morcellement Carlos, Tamarin after performance of the contract. Breakdown of the loss and expense were received in October 2008. The matter is still under dispute.



# **THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT**

**INTRODUCTION:** The District Council of Black River, has since its creation in 1989, contributed enormously to the development of the south western region of the island.

Due to the rocky and poor nature of its soil, much less importance had been given to this part of the island, until recently when the touristic worth of this part was fully recognized. The District Council of Black River extends from Richelieu Village down to Le Morne village. The District comprises thirteen Village Councils, most of which are located immediately at the foot of the mountains of the Black River Range and the western coast of the island.

One of the main functions of the Council, as a service provider, is the improvement of community based amenities within the area falling under its jurisdiction. As such the Council is among others responsible for:

- (i) *Construction and maintenance of non-classified (rural) roads*
- (ii) *Construction and maintenance of drains along non classified (rural) roads*
- (iii) *Construction of social halls, library and other buildings*
- (iv) *Provision of sports infrastructure namely football, volleyball and basketball grounds, children playgrounds and related amenities*
- (v) *Construction of recreational parks*
- (vi) *Fixing and maintenance of street lighting and traffic signs*
- (vii) *Design, supervision and management of building and engineering projects undertaken by in-house labour or contractors*
- (viii) *Fixing of decorations (flags, bunting, etc) for social, sports and religious activities*
- (ix) *Maintenance of District Council vehicles*
- (x) *Assessing Building and Land Use Permits, EIA Report, Morcellement projects*

## **PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT:**

The Public Infrastructure Department is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and maintenance of all infrastructural projects of the Council. It has a dedicated team of Engineers, Inspectors and workmen to ensure the proper running of the department. The department plans, designs, appoints contractors having the required capacities

and experience through pre-established public procurement processes (which are seen to be transparent, fair and equitable) for execution as well as supervision and administration of all capital projects.

It also executes many projects (*mostly minor ones*) using its own labour force.

## **SUMMARY OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FROM 2005 ONWARDS**

Many projects have been implemented from 2005 onwards. A summary of these main projects achieved and those in progress are given in the table below.

Projects		YEARLY VALUE OF PROJECTS REALISED (RS MILLION- M)								
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	current
1.	Construction and Resurfacing of Roads	10	11.2	10.6	14.9	14.9	22.3	-	-	4.0
2.	Construction of Drains	7.2	5.8	8.4	9.4	9.4	5.6	3.0	-	4.6
TOTAL		17.2	17	19	24.3	24.3	27.9	3.0	-	8.6

## **DRAINWORKS UNDERTAKEN IN 2010**

SN	VILLAGE	LOCATION	COST (RS)
1	Pailles*	Manaram, Madrassa Road, Bengali No. 3 and Claude Delaître	935,000
2	Gros Cailloux/ Canot	Hibiscus Lane	169,000
		Jagessur Lane	143,000
3	Albion	Avenue des Marlins	231,000
		Avenue Espadons, Morc. de Chazal	480,000
4	Flic en Flac	Loday Lane	1,124,000
5	Tamarin	Avenue Padco	296,000
6	Case Noyale	Feeder Canal Citron	1,158,000
7	La Gaulette	Cap D’Or Avenue	290,000
8	Bel Ombre*	Morc. Bel Ombre	257,000
		Thomas Road near Bridge	115,000
		Devanny and Michael Leal Roads	150,000
9	Baie du Cap*	Keetaruth Road	125,000
		Volleyball Pitch at Coco Road	100,000
		Ramjuttun Road	50,000
TOTAL			5,623,000

**NOTE:** \* was still within the area of the District Council of Black River

### OTHER MAIN PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2010

SN	Projects	Cost (M) (Rs)
1	Construction of Libraries at Pailles and Flic en Flac	3.0
2	Extension of street lighting network at Cascavelle and Chamarel	1.1
3	Covered Podium at Richelieu	0.8
4	Construction of slipway at La Gaulette Fish Landing Station	1.0
5	Upgrading of children playgrounds including provision for equipment at Cascavelle, Le Morne, Case Noyale, Pailles, Gros Cailloux and Flic en Flac	2.4
6	Upgrading of fencing for Village Hall and Football Ground at Bel Ombre	1.2
7	Lighting of Football Grounds at Baie du Cap, Grande Rivière Noire, Tamarin and Bambous	6.3
8	Construction of Cloakrooms at Gros Cailloux and Flic en Flac	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16.8</b>

### OTHER MAIN PROJECT UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

SN	Projects	Cost (M) (Rs)
1	Construction of Multipurpose Complex at Cascavelle	3.7

### OTHER MAIN PROJECT UNDERTAKEN IN 2012

SN	Projects	Cost (M) (Rs)
1	Construction of 'Parcours de Santé' at NHDC Complex, Bambous	1.5
2	Construction of Children Playground at NHDC Complex, Bambous	0.6

### DEFERRED PROJECTS IN 2012 DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

VILLAGE COUNCIL	S.N	LOCATION
Albion	(i)	Road repairs at Morcellement Beerjeeraz
	(ii)	Extension of drain at Camp Créoles (170m)
	(iii)	Extension of drain + Cross Drain at Avenue Requins (60m)
Bambous	(i)	Road works Morc. Eau Bonne
	(ii)	Resurfacing of Ellipée Road
	(iii)	Upgrading of bridge at Avenue Brigands
	(iv)	Upgrading of bridge and storm drains at Vaudagne Road
	(v)	Construction of absorption drain at Upper Allée Jacques (100m)
	(vi)	Extension of drains at Vaudagne (50m)
	(vii)	Absorption drain at Koobarawa & Maraz Lanes, Bambous
Bel Ombre	(i)	Resurfacing road network SILWF Housing Estate
	(ii)	Construction of drains at Cité EDC
Beaux Songes / Cascavelle	(i)	Resurfacing Camp Creoles to Camp Bombaye
	(ii)	Resurfacing of end of Saturn Lane
Case Noyale	(i)	Extension of road Armandine
	(ii)	Construction of storm drain at Rivulet Citron
Grande Rivière Noire	(i)	Road works Morc. Mont Calme
	(ii)	Upgrading of drain network Cité EDC
Gros Cailloux	(i)	Extension of existing drain at Allee Mangues (500mm x 500m x 75m)
Pailles	(i)	Construction of drain network at Dodo 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 and at Manaram Lane (673m of open drain) + (303m of covered drain for accesses to premises and for cross drain)
	(ii)	Construction of covered drain at Ally Hossen Lane (65m)
	(iii)	Construction of covered drain and 7m cross drain with metal grating at Cité Jonction (20m)
Petite Rivière	(i)	Construction of road near St Mary's West College (200m)
	(ii)	drain from Joree Lane to Nundloll Lane (215m)
Richelieu	(i)	Drain works at La Fourche Lane
	(ii)	Upgrading of kiosk at Black River Road
	(iii)	Construction of 206m masonry drain + handrails on one side along about 105m at Sewdeen Lane
La Gaulette	(i)	Construction of Jannath Road up to sea
	(ii)	Road and drain reconstruction at Remy Ollier Road
Chamarel	(i)	Construction of Vincent Road, Desiré Road and Lutchmanen Road
Flic en Flac	(i)	Resurfacing of Morcellement de Chazal Network and Morc. Anna network
Tamarin	(i)	Reconstruction of part of Jacarandas and Black Rock Roads
	(ii)	Construction of drain at Avenue Rose/ Bougainvilliers
	(iii)	Construction of drain at CHA Housing Estate

# **LAND USE**

## **&**

# **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

### **KEY FUNCTIONS:**

1. *Process applications for Building and Land Use Permits within the legal time frame.*
2. *Monitor development*
3. *Attend to complaints*
4. *Take action against unlawful development.*

### **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:**

1. *Local Government Act 2011*
2. *Town and Country Planning Act 1954*
3. *Environment Protection Act 2002*
4. *Planning and Development Act 2004*
5. *Building Control Act 2012*

### **CHALLENGE:**

1. *Ensure that 100% applications are determined within the legal time frame.*
2. *Ensure that all development are carried out as per approved plans.*

### **BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS -**

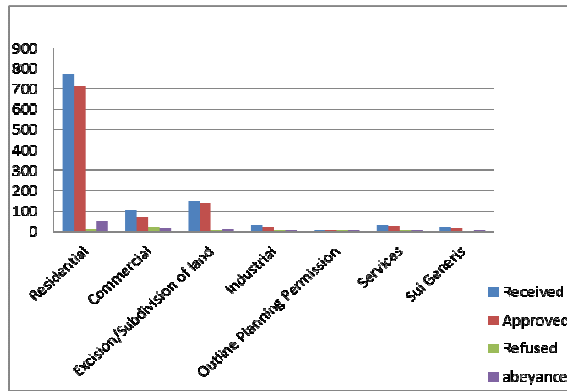
#### **YEAR 2012**

	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved	No. of applications rejected	No. of Applications in abeyance
<b>Residential</b>	772	710	12	50
<b>Commercial</b>	106	66	23	17
<b>Excision/Su bdivision of land</b>	148	135	3	10
<b>Industrial</b>	31	24	2	5
<b>Outline Planning Permission</b>	9	-	-	-
<b>Services</b>	31	28	1	2
<b>Sui Generis</b>	24	20	-	4

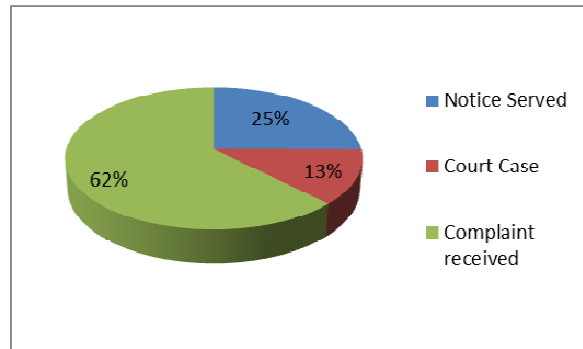
### **STATISTICS - BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT**

#### **APPLICATIONS 2008 - 2012**

	Received	Approved	Rejected	In Abeyance
<b>Residential</b>	5417	3464	26	1927
<b>Commercial</b>	482	298	50	134
<b>Industrial / Suig Generis</b>	191	100	9	82
<b>Installation of Engine</b>	29	25	2	2
<b>OPP</b>	36	25	2	9
<b>Excision/ Division of land</b>	773	648	21	104
<b>Services</b>	95	68	1	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7023</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2284</b>

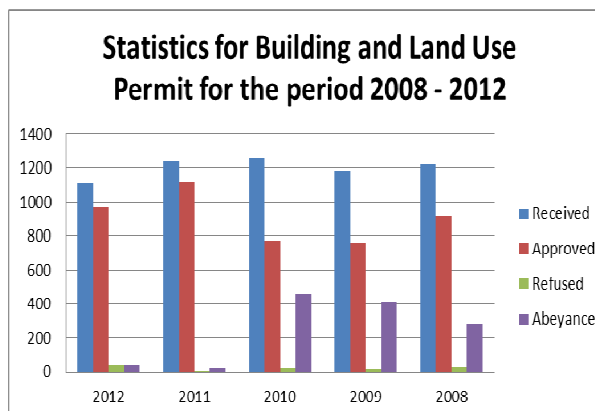
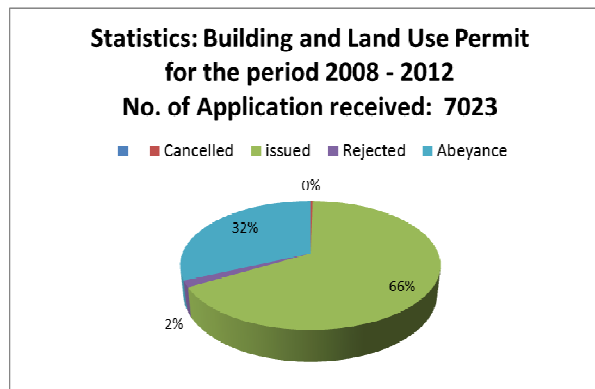


**(Building and Land Use Permit Applications -Year 2012)**



**(COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCEMENT - YEAR 2012)**

(Notices Served = 85, Court Cases = 42, Complaints Received = 211)



## **THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Public Health Department is responsible for the proper monitoring of:-

- (i) *Scavenging service*
- (ii) *Cemeteries and cremation grounds*
- (iii) *Operation of Trades / Business & Commercial activities*
- (iv) *Ex-Post Control*
- (v) *Barelands*
- (vi) *Enforcement of Black River District Council Regulations, Environmental Laws and Prosecutions*
- (vii) *Rodent Control*

The Public Health Department also implements all policies and decisions taken by the Council pertaining to health and environment.

1. **SCAVENGING SERVICE:** Provision of scavenging service is a major statutory duty which falls under the responsibility of the Public Health Department. Scavenging Service includes:-

- (viii) *Street cleaning and Refuse collection*
- (ix) *Cleaning of drains (open and covered)*
- (x) *Mowing*
- (xi) *Spraying of herbicides / weeding*
- (xii) *Sweeping of roads*
- (xiii) *Cleaning of rivers, rivulets and canals*

Scavenging Service in the District of Black River is fully contracted out and the Officers of the Public Health Department are responsible for its organisation and supervision.

A twice weekly refuse collection service was being provided to all households and economic operators for a better environment and avoidance of health hazards. Moreover, most hotels and restaurants are offered daily service upon payment of relevant scavenging fees. Cleaning of open drains was effected twice weekly whereas covered drains were cleaned at least twice a year or else as and when required. Sweeping was carried out daily along main roads whereas interior roads were swept twice weekly.

A monthly scavenging fee was claimed from all economic operators as per the Black River District Council Collection and Disposal of Refuse Regulations, but the service was free of charge for residential premises (households).

Bulky wastes campaigns (collection of old furniture, electric appliances, used tyres etc.) and Environment Days were organised frequently to help inhabitants to dispose of their unwanted materials.

It is, however, to be noted that an open Advertised Bidding Exercise was launched in September 2012 for a once weekly service. The frequency of the service had to be reduced to once weekly to reduce costs and in the same breath to bring at par the frequency of services being provided by other Local Authorities in Mauritius. The contracts with the then scavenging contractors were extended on a month to month basis pending the signature of the new contracts.

## **2. CEMETERIES AND CREMATIONS GROUNDS**

**Cemeteries Location:** *Flic en Flac, Grande Rivière Noire, St Martin-Mont Roches, Bambous and Richelieu.*

**Cremation Grounds:** *Richelieu, St Martin Mont Roches, Beaux Songes and Médine.*

**LATE NIGHT BURIAL:** Since April 2008, lighting facilities have been provided at St Martin Mont Roches Cemetery for facilitating night burials, especially for the Muslim Community.

## **PROPOSED GAS / ELECTRIC / GASOLINE**

**CREMATORIUM:** A portion of land was donated by Médine Ltd at Montagne Saint Pierre, Bambous for the construction of a gas / electric / gasoline crematorium. The Council intends to erect pyres on the same site for those willing to perform traditional cremations.

**3. PUBLIC LAVATORIES:** Available at La Gaulette and Bambous and same are cleaned and maintained by District Council labour.

**4. EX- POST CONTROL:** Inspectors of the Public Health Department carry out regular control and inspection of business premises to ensure compliance with Business Facilitation Act and Black River District Council Regulations.

**5. BARELAND:** Several Morcellements for residential purposes were approved in the Council's area during the past years and these have led to a proliferation of barelands remaining overgrown with noxious vegetations which represent a threat to public security and public health. Owners whose lands are overgrown with noxious vegetations are served with notices (under the Black River District Council Regulation or Eyesore Abatement Notice under EPA).

A maximum of one month delay is given to them to clean their lands.

Non-compliance with these notices results in prosecution under the above laws.

In the absence of Cadastral Section at the District Council of Black River several owners of land are untraceable and cannot thus be served notices. In such cases those barelands located near occupied housing units are cleaned by the District Council labour. Records are kept so that ultimately when the owners are traced out, the sums due are claimed from them.

## **6. RODENT CONTROL**

A once monthly service is being provided in all the 13 villages by the District Council labour with a view to controlling the rodent population and decrease the risk of potential diseases.

# **ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN**

## **YEAR 2012**

<b>SN</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>
<b>1</b>	Clearing of barelands	300 <i>(Barelands cleared)</i>
<b>2</b>	Eyesore Abatement Notice to clear barelands	250 <i>(Notices served)</i>
<b>3</b>	Fixed Penalty for non-compliance of abatement notice	2 <i>(Penalty served)</i>
<b>4</b>	Collection of bulky waste	3 <i>(Occasions)</i>
<b>5</b>	Collection of used tyres from the District Council area	90 <i>(Used tyres collected)</i>
<b>6</b>	Rodent Control	Monthly in all the 13 villages
<b>7</b>	Cleaning of drains, rivers and canals	Twice weekly
<b>8</b>	Sensitisation Programme	All throughout the year

# **WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

The staff of the Welfare Department comprises one Principal Welfare Officer, two Welfare Officers, one Supervisor Sewing Classes and six sewing Mistresses.

The main activities of the department are:

- *Planning, organisation, supervision and coordination of all welfare activities organised by the Council.*
- *Responsible for the running of sewing classes dispensed in Village Halls.*
- *Coordinating educational Scholarship Schemes offered by the Council.*
- *Coordinating activities at National Level such as National Day / Divali / Christmas Celebrations and other festivals.*
- *Planning, organising and participating in twinning programmes and activities with Anse Boileau of Seychelles with which the Council is so far twinned.*
- *Collaborating with Village Councils, Sports Federations, “forces vives” and other ministries and departments for the organisation of sports, cultural, literary, religious and other recreational activities.*

## **BUDGET – JANUARY 2012 TO DECEMBER 2012**

- *Sports & Welfare Activities - Rs 250,000/-*
- *Regionalisation of Sports - Rs 260,000/-*
- *Social Activities - Rs 300,000/-*
- *Cultural activities – Rs 125,000/-*
- *Activities in connection with twinning – travelling, training and subsistence allowance – Rs 600,000/-*

## **PURPOSE OF THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

- To plan the organisation of the following activities organised by the Council:-
  - **Welfare**
  - **Cultural**
  - **Recreational**
  - **Youth**
  - **Sports**
  - **Educational**
  - **Religious**
  - **Twinning**
  - **Any other related activities**

## **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS REALISED BY WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2012**

S.N	DATE	ACTIVITIES
1	January	Coordination in connection with Cavadee Festival with religious organisations of the District Council of Black River area.
2	February to July	Sculpture courses in connection with Strategic and Sustainable Campaign Project of Gender Links
3	February to March	Coordination in connection with Abolition of Slavery
		Coordination in connection with Maha Shivaratree Festival with religious organisations of the District Council of Black River area.
		National Day Celebration at Gros Cailloux
		National Day Celebrations at the District Council of Black River and planting of trees
		National Day Celebrations at Baie du Cap
		National Day Celebrations at Case Noyale
		PowerPoint presentation on project – Education and Economic Development (mushroom production project by 25 persons from La Valette Village)
		Gala de Boxe at Richelieu
		Women’s Day at District Council of Black River
4	April to June	Coordination in connection with Easter Festival with organisations of District Council of Black River area.
		Educational twinning exchange (one week activity at Tamarin Village/St Benoit RCA) Anse Boileau, Seychelles
5	July to August	Boxe competition at Petite Rivière
		Music Day Celebrations at Le Morne
		Athletics Day at Germain Commarmond Stadium
		Distribution of gifts and certificates to sewing class pupils
		Coordination in connection with Assumption Day
		Coordination in connection with Eid Celebrations.
6	September, November to December	Inauguration of Cascavelle Multi-Purpose Complex
		Coordination in connection with Ganesh Chaturthi Festival
		Street football at Cascavelle Shopping Mall
		Inauguration of children playground at NHDC Complex, Bambous
		Petanque Regional Championship at Flic en Flac
		Return Educational twinning exchange with Anse Boileau, Seychelles
		Divali Nite Celebrations at Beaux Songes, Flic en Flac, Canot and Pailles
		Picnic/Educational Tour for sewing class pupils
		Crafts making from waste materials
		Exhibition and talk in connection with 16 days campaign against Gender based violence



**TWINNING ACTIVITIES:** The Council is twinned with the District of Anse Boileau, Seychelles since February 2004 with the view to establishing close relations and exchange programmes for the benefit of the population of the two regions in the fields of education, sport, culture and socio-economic. The exchanges effected till date are as follows:

1. *Signature of Protocol of Twinning*
2. *Women's Associations Visit*
3. *Senior Citizens Visit*
4. *Educational Visits (Primary School Children)*
5. *Participation in Festival Kréol*
6. *Visit of farmers*



SCHOOL CHILDREN OF ST BENOIT RCA, TAMARIN

**YEARLY ACTIVITIES:** Amongst all activities performed by the Black River District Council, the yearly activities are National Day Celebrations, Music Day, Educational Twinning Exchanges with Anse Boileau, Divali Celebrations, Elderly Day Celebrations as well as several sports activities.

The most popular activity is the Elderly Day Celebrations organised in the context of the Birth Anniversary of late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. The event was celebrated, under the patronage and sponsorship of Domaine Anna Restaurant Flic en Flac and same activity has been organised for the past ten years.



MUSIC DAY CELEBRATIONS 2012 AT LE MORNE



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS 2012 AT CASE NOYALE

## OTHER ACTIVITIES



INAUGURATION OF "PARCOURS DE SANTÉ" AT NHDC, BAMBOUS





The main problem faced by the District Council during the year 2012 has been the shortage of funds. However, the support of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands has been undeniable in helping the District Council to meet its commitments. Projects that have been deferred due to the unavailability of funds are given priority consideration once funds are made available to that effect.

It is worth nothing that all the villages falling under the jurisdiction of the District Council of Black River are given the same consideration whenever funds are to be allocated for the implementation of capital projects. By so proceeding, it is ascertained that development in all the regions in Black River is done at par and that there is no village that lags behind in terms of infrastructural development.

Much emphasis is laid by Management on the notion “Value for Money”. No effort is spared to reduce wastage or inefficiency. Despite its financial constraints, it can proudly be said that the District Council of Black River can rightly be cited as example of good performance in local administration.

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