

10. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- 10.1 The Office of the Ombudsman was set up in 1970 to investigate the administrative action of Government officials/departments, other public bodies and local authorities, and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. It is known as the watchdog against maladministration which causes harm, prejudice, injustice or loss to aggrieved citizens.
- 10.2 Its activities are organised under different sections *viz* Investigations; Administration; Procurement; and Finance. A Senior Investigations Officer directly assists the Ombudsman in his daily functions. The former is also responsible, in his capacity of accounting officer, to oversee technical and other administrative issues, under the supervision and instructions of the Ombudsman. While investigations are carried out by Investigations Officers, dedicated staff in the fields of administration, procurement and finance provide support services.
- 10.3 The staff side did not make any representation for this review. Management on its part requested for a restyling and upgrading of the grade of Senior Investigations Officer along with an enrichment in duties; creation of an intermediate level between that of Senior Investigations Officer and Investigations Officer, in view of an increase in work complexity and load of work, as well as a grade of Investigations Assistant to assist the Investigations Officers; payment of an allowance to officers of the General Services posted at the Investigations Section; and provision of duty remission facilities to staff involved in investigations.
- 10.4 During consultations, the Bureau has been apprised that there was a dire need for additional technical staff to meet the growing workload. After examining the various proposals and reassessing the duties/responsibilities of the Senior Investigations Officer and the evolution thereof, we consider that there is need for a strengthening of the Cadre to enhance operational effectiveness, which also calls for a review of the appellation of Senior Investigations Officer.
- 10.5 However, since Section 96(4) of the Constitution provides for the grade of Senior Investigations Officer, its restyling would entail a constitutional amendment. The Bureau therefore could not accede to the proposals made owing to this legal impediment. In the given circumstance, we are maintaining the present set-up. Nevertheless, Management may contemplate bringing the necessary amendment to the Constitution following which appropriate measures may be taken to strengthen the organisation structure.

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SALARY SCHEDULE

Salary Code	Salary Scale and Grade
02 072 096	Rs 49000 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 62350 x 1850 - 67900 x 1900 - 75500 x 2250 - 86750 x 2500 - 91750 Senior Investigations Officer, Ombudsman's Office
02 060 090	Rs 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 49000 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 62350 x 1850 - 67900 x 1900 - 75500 x 2250 - 77750 Investigations Officer, Ombudsman's Office
24 027 060	Rs 24245 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 Driver
