

## **6. COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, FAMILY WELFARE, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRICE FIXING UNIT AND HANDICRAFT**

### **6.1 Women's Affairs, Family Welfare and Child Development Division**

- 6.1.1 The Division comprises the Women's Affairs Unit, the Family Welfare Unit and the Child Development Unit. The main function of the Women's Affairs Unit is to empower women for their advancement. Its Family Welfare and Protection Unit promotes family welfare through a better understanding of the role, rights and duties of each component of the family. The implementation of policies and programmes for the welfare and protection of children, among others, devolve on the Child Development Unit.
- 6.1.2 A Head, Gender, Family Welfare and Child Development is responsible to the Departmental Head for the overall management of the Gender, Family Welfare and Child Development Units, among others. The Division is staffed by officers in the grades of Family Counselling Officer and Family Welfare and Protection Officer. As the grade of Psychologist on the establishment is currently vacant, a Psychologist/Senior Psychologist from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is posted on a tour of service to Rodrigues to service the Commission. We have been apprised that incumbent is equally called upon to service the Commission for Health, as and when required.
- 6.1.3 Both Management and the staff have requested for the creation of additional levels in view of the increasing number of cases related to child protection and family welfare; restyling of the grade of Psychologist; and payment of On-Call and In-Attendance Allowances as well as an allowance for providing clinical services. We have examined the proposals and are making appropriate recommendations for those which have been retained.

#### **Coordinator (New Grade)**

#### **Senior Family Welfare and Protection Officer (New Grade)**

- 6.1.4 According to Management, in view of the surge in the number of cases related to child protection and domestic violence, requests were made to reinforce the existing structure to enable the Division to deliver on its mandate. Considering the essence of the functions of this Division, we are making provision for polyvalent grades for a smooth delivery of services.

#### **Recommendation 1**

- 6.1.5 **We recommend the creation of a grade of Coordinator. Appointment thereto should be made by selection from among serving officers on the establishment of the Commission, who hold a substantive appointment and possess a Degree in Psychology or Sociology or Social Work or Social Studies or an equivalent qualification and reckon at least three years'**