

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

CONTENTS

1. Philosophy of Probation
2. Historical Résumé
3. Objectives and Service Delivery Measures
4. General Standards in the Probation and After Care Service
5. Management
6. Advisory Bodies
 - (A) The Central Probation Committee
 - (B) The District Probation Committee
7. Staff
8. Workload
 - (A) Inquiries
 - (B) Supervision
 - (C) Throughcare Service
 - (D) After Care
 - (E) Counselling
9. The Community Service Order
10. Court Area Reports

Port Louis, Rose-Hill, Curepipe, Black River, Savanne, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Grand Port, Rodrigues.
11. Probation Institutions
 - (A) Probation Hostel for Boys
 - (B) Probation Home for Girls
12. The Suicide Prevention Unit

13. Supreme Court Cases
14. Cases for the National Adoption Council
15. Parole
16. The Discharged Persons' Aid Committee
17. The Boards of Visitors
 - (A) The Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors
 - (B) The Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors
18. Preventive Work
 - (A) The Pre-Release Scheme in Prisons
 - (B) Talks, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars
 - (C) Suicide
19. In Service Training
20. The Record and Research Unit
21. Conclusion
22. *Appendices*
 - I Breakdown of enquiries per Court area
 - II Offences committed by persons placed on Probation in 2008
 - (a) Offences committed by minors for which Probation Orders were made.
 - (b) Age at which minors were involved in offences for which Probation Orders were made.
 - (c) Offences committed area-wise by minors for which Probation Orders were made.
 - III Breakdown of Counselling cases per Court area during 2008
 - IV Offences committed by persons for which Community Service Orders were made during 2008

THE PROBATION AND AFTERCARE SERVICE

1. PHILOSOPHY OF PROBATION

Probation work started in 1841 in Boston, U.S. as a voluntary service.

The voluntary scheme of probation in Boston was the work of a shoemaker, John Augustus, who, on humanitarian grounds thought that the sufferings of human beings should be mitigated.

Later, in 1878 it became an official service when the Probation Act was passed.

An informal form of probation was in operation during the eighteenth century in England.

In those days the brutal laws gave few alternatives to courts other than death, exile and imprisonment under harsh and inhuman conditions. A few magistrates were willingly making use of recognizance – that is, the binding over of offenders on their own undertaking to be of good behaviour. This practice, in fact, has through the ages, become the philosophy guiding any system of probation in the world. It is founded on the established belief that some offenders have inner resources, latent qualities and enough good will to amend.

2. HISTORICAL RESUMÉ

The Probation Service was established in 1947 following the enactment of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance No. 58 of 1946. It was extended to Rodrigues by Proclamation No. 20 of 1961.

The Central and District Probation Committees were set up under the Probation of Offenders Regulations No. 64 of 1947. The Discharged Persons' Aid Committee Act 1950 started involving the Service to some extent in the aftercare of prisoners. In 1952, a system of leave was introduced at the then Industrial School whereby boys and girls were being released under the care of Probation Officers. The Borstal Act 1954 made provision for inmates to be released on licence and to be supervised by Probation Officers. The same year saw the establishment of the Probation Hostel for Boys.

Since the eighties, the Supreme Court started referring cases on a regular basis for dispensation of age to contract marriage, custody, access, guardianship and related matters. At the same time, requests for reports from other local and international agencies increased.

During the same period the Service started launching itself more in preventive work through talks, lectures and annual seminars on burning social issues like criminality, family breakdown and delinquency.

Following the Dangerous Drugs Act 1986 and subsequent amendments, cases involving drug users were referred for social enquiries and supervision.

The National Adoption Council Act 1987 involved fully the Service in carrying out social enquiries in cases of adoption of minors by non-citizens.

In August 1988, the Home for Girls was opened.

The enactment of the Reform Institutions Act (35 of 1988) made provision for an Aftercare Service. The Probation Service then came to be known as the Probation and Aftercare Service. The Correctional Youth Centre, the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and the Discharged Persons' Aid Committee were redefined and the Boards of Visitors were re-styled. The Parole Board was set up and the supervision of parolees was vested in the Probation and Aftercare Service.

In February 1990, the "We Care for You" Unit was set up to provide counselling to clients having psycho-social problems.

In August 1990, the Service underwent a change in its structure in view of its ever-increasing responsibilities and was headed by a Commissioner, supported by three Assistant Commissioners, each being in charge of the following divisions - Probation, Parole and Aftercare, and Institutional Care.

In the same year, the Service started participating in the Pre-release Scheme in the Prisons.

Following the Child Protection Act, 1994, requests for social enquiries for such cases came to the Service.

In April 1996, the Support Service was set up with a view to providing help to relatives and families of suicide victims.

In July 1996, throughcare for inmates of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre was started by the Service.

The following year, the Director of Public Prosecutions started sending requests for social enquiries on a regular basis.

The same year, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act 1997 was passed and requests for social enquiries for such cases started coming from Courts.

In June 2001, the “We Care For You” Unit changed its appellation to that of ‘Suicide Prevention Unit’.

In July 2002, the Community Service Order Act was passed and was proclaimed on 5th November 2002.

On 14 March 2003, the first case of Community Service Order was referred by the Curepipe Court.

With the coming into operation of the Community Service Order, ten additional posts of Probation Officer were created.

The Family Court was set up in January 2008 and there was a considerable increase in the number of requests for Social Enquiry Reports.

In February 2008 the hotline of the Suicide Prevention Unit became operational on a 24-hour basis.

3. OBJECTIVES AND SERVICE DELIVERY MEASURES

The Probation and After Care Service confirms its belief in the following objectives and service delivery measures:

(i) Objectives

- Assisting the Courts in planning sentences for offenders.
- Rehabilitating offenders in the community.
- Aiming towards the reduction of crime and protection of the public.
- Assisting families in conflict and safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Aiming towards the reduction of suicide rate.
- Educating people on social problems through the preventive work project.

(ii) Service delivery measures

- Carrying out independent enquiries in civil and criminal matters referred by courts and other institutions.
- Supervising and rehabilitating offenders in the community.
- Providing a range of alternatives to custodial sentence so that as many offenders as, in accordance with public safety, can be maintained in the community under supervision.
- Providing residential treatment to minors on probation or subjected to a committal order and whose home conditions are un conducive to proper rehabilitation.
- Working in collaboration with the welfare section of custodial institutions, in providing social work service for the inmates and facilitating links with the outside world.
- Working with offenders before and after their release from institutions with the aim of assisting in their rehabilitation.
- Participating in programmes with detainees about to be released from penal institutions so as to make them realise what is expected of them in society after they are out.

- Taking positive and preventive measures that involve the full mobilisation of all possible resources, including the family, volunteers and other community institutions, for the purpose of promoting the well-being of the minor and the young adult amongst others with a view to reducing the need for intervention under the law.
- Helping families in which divorce or separation has given rise to situations of conflict or need.
- Working whenever possible, with other members of the community to prevent the break-up of families and supporting parents, through their difficulties, so that separation does not seem to be the only option.
- Providing a throughcare service to residents of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, the Probation Hostel for Boys and the Probation Home for Girls.
- Helping and advising in cases of attempted suicide through counselling and also engaging in the prevention of suicide.
- Delivering talks dealing with various social problems in colleges and social welfare centres.

4. GENERAL STANDARDS IN THE PROBATION AND AFTER CARE SERVICE

The set standards for the Probation staff have been defined and should bring improvement in the quality of services offered.

(i) **Services must be delivered efficiently and effectively**

The **characteristics** of quality services in Probation are:-

- Consistency** : delivered to declared standards and in accordance with defined procedures, through capable systems;
- Integrity** : delivered honestly and completely in the way that the service was designed to be delivered, with no cutting of corners or short-changing, so that the user has trust and confidence in the service provided;
- Timeliness** : provided at the right time;
- Reliability** : the service is delivered in the way that it was designed to be delivered, free from error. Where the service is to provide information, this should include accuracy (i.e. verification);
- relevance** : delivered flexibly in a way that is responsive to users' requirements;
- Choice** : the ability of users to exercise some discretion;
- Courtesy** : politeness and friendliness;
- Accessibility** : equal access and openness, including geography, time and language;
- Equity** : delivered fairly and without discrimination;
- Security** : delivered in safety and without risk.

(ii) **Service Delivery Standards in Social Enquiry Report**

Accessibility

Officers need to be conscious of the importance of making the Service as accessible as possible. Issues to be considered include:-

- Possible flexibility of venue for interviews.
- The timing of appointments e.g. for those with responsibilities for dependents.
- the need to ensure that offices are as welcoming and accessible as possible, recognising that for some defendants, attending a Probation Office may be an alien and uncomfortable experience.

Clarity

Jargon and abbreviations should be avoided. At times, officers may not even be aware they are using them but they can be incomprehensible to others.

In describing the purpose of the SER process to the client, it is important that the author makes clear that he/she can make no promise as to the outcome, which is the responsibility of the court.

Consistency

Consistent presentation requires that common headings are used.

The person signing the report should proof read it carefully.

When a client fails to attend for the arranged appointment, wherever possible a second appointment should be offered. Whether two or more face-to-face interviews are required, will be subject to the author's discretion, dependent upon time available, experience of the author and the complexity of the individual's circumstances.

While home visits are essential, it is helpful to identify the purpose of such a visit, and what is expected to be achieved.

Equity

Elements of the work which promote anti-discriminatory practice include:-

In the process of the SER interview

- asking questions which elicit individualised information
- asking probing and challenging questions
- being sensitive to the way in which questioning may be perceived by the client

In the writing of the report

- that when acknowledging difference, this is done in a way which is racially and culturally sensitive, and portrays difference in ways which indicate respect for such difference
- not perpetuating stereotypes, or using language which may perpetuate stereotypes, either positive or negative
- not using language which 'distances' the author from the defendant, thereby reducing the credibility of the report e.g. over use of 'he/she tells me'; careless use of reported speech.

In the conclusion

- endeavouring to ensure that proposals do not result in the over or under representation of particular groups in different types of sentence.

It is important to note that good anti-discriminatory practice is not achieved by ignoring a person's race/gender/ethnicity etc. but in using the information in a positive, relevant and sensitive way.

Confidentiality

The confidentiality of the process needs to be explained to the offender, e.g.:

- that they/their representative will receive a copy of the report
- that they have the opportunity to disagree with any of its contents
- that a copy is given to the Sentencing Court, and its contents may be referred to, but not normally read out in full in open court.

However, they should also be made aware that in the event of an institutional sentence being passed, a copy will be sent to the institution.

Verification

Verification is seen as increasingly important for the credibility of SERs. To facilitate this, it is helpful when meeting for the SER appointment to ask the defendants to bring with them evidence of employment, job prospects, medical condition, any proof of income and expenditure, or other significant facts about them which they consider relevant.

It is, however, important that the process of verification is seen, not as starting from a disbelief in the defendant's account, but as a way of assisting the author in creating a more convincing report. It follows from this, that care needs to be taken to ensure that verification takes place across the board, and that no one client group's reports are verified more or less than others.

Timeliness

The date, for which a report is required, is normally determined by the court, although the Probation Service is consulted both in terms of general policy, and, usually, in the individual case.

Experience suggests that some reports on defendants, whose circumstances are comparatively straightforward, can be prepared expeditiously without a loss of quality. However, it is not always easy to identify such situations without interviewing and visiting the defendant. Certainly, where the client's circumstances, or the proposal, are more complex, a longer period is advantageous.

All reports need to be available the morning of the day preceding the court hearing. However for Intermediate Court, all reports need to be available for the District Magistrate at least two days before the date of sentence. This should also allow time for 'reading in'. This process is not only a double check in relation to quality, but should also ensure that court duty Probation Officers can anticipate possible questions from the judiciary. It is the responsibility of the enquiry officer to ensure that the report is at court at the required time.

Integrity

The report should be comprehensive, and be a document in which the Court and offender can have confidence. It should also be individualised. This is particularly important in the conclusion, where clichés and stock phrases become counter-productive. It is the author's professional opinion and should be expressed as such.

(iii) Standards for the supervision of offenders in the Community

- ✘ Requirements for supervision must be made clear.
- ✘ All cases must be accountable.
- ✘ Supervision must be carried out in a fair and consistent way without discrimination.
- ✘ Priority must be given to the protection of the public from re-offending.
- ✘ Consideration for victims is important, and it must be brought home to offenders that they must make up any harm or damage done, as far as possible.

5. MANAGEMENT

The Probation Division was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Reform Institutions, until 1986. It then came under the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions until 2 October 1991. From that date it operated under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Leisure and Reform Institutions. In November 1994 the Service came under the Prime Minister's Office until 15 November, 1996 when it came under the responsibility of the Ministry for Human Resource Development and Reform Institutions. As from 28 June 1997 the Probation and After Care Service became once more a Division of the Prime Minister's Office until 2 October 1999 when it was shifted under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Reform Institutions. As from 17 September 2000, the Probation and After-Care Service came under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions.

The Head Office of the Probation and Aftercare Service is situated in the Probation Complex at Beau Bassin since 1 February, 1997. It has a regional office in every District Court, including Rodrigues.

The direct responsibility of the Probation and Aftercare Service together with its planning and development to meet the needs of society, rests with the Commissioner, supported by the Deputy Commissioner and three Assistant Commissioners, with the assistance of the Principal cadre. The cooperation of the whole staff is, however, essential to provide efficient and effective services to the community.

Every effort is being made to keep all channels open, up and down the line. A policy of openness and transparency, as far as possible, is followed. And a decentralization process is sought to allow full responsibilities to be shouldered by all officers in their various duties.

It is believed that the Service must have:-

- a major client focus
- a belief in and respect for its staff
- a concentration on practical action
- an innovative orientation

On the basis of these principles, the Service is driving towards the broad objectives that have been set. Sustained attention is being directed to the input factors which are human and other resources, time, and involvement. Key output areas are identified to ensure a continuous and harmonious flow of services towards the community.

6. ADVISORY BODIES

(A) The Central Probation Committee

The Central Probation Committee is appointed annually to advise Government on all matters relating to Probation, Reformation and Rehabilitation of Offenders, and Protection of Minors. The Judge in Bankruptcy and Master and Registrar, Magistrates of the Intermediate and District Courts, the Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of Prisons, and representatives of various Ministries are ex-officio members. The committee also includes persons with aptitude for and experience in social work. A meeting of the Central Probation Committee was held on 31 October 2008.

(B) The District Probation Committee

Each Court has a District Probation Committee appointed annually by the Minister responsible for the Probation and Aftercare Service. The Committee functions under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate with the Probation Officer responsible for the Court Area as Secretary.

During 2008, the District Probation Committee was held in each District Court Area as indicated below:

<u>Court Area</u>	<u>Date</u>
Port Louis	10.07.08 & 20.11.08
Rose-Hill	13.06.08 & 14.11.08
Curepipe	27.02.08
Black River	19.06.08 & 10.12.08
Savanne	17.12.08
Moka	9.05.08 & 15.12.08
Flacq	12.09.08
Pamplemousses	26.08.08
Rivière du Rempart	Nil
Grand Port	17.07.08 & 10.12.08
Rodrigues	20.02.08, 18.06.08 & 20.08.08

7. STAFF

(i) Establishment (Mauritius)

The staff of the Probation and Aftercare Service comprised the following:-

1	Commissioner
1	Deputy Commissioner
3	Assistant Commissioners
10	Principal Probation Officers
18	Senior Probation Officers
37	Probation Officers

However, at the end of 2008, the Service was functioning with the following staff:-

1	Commissioner - Mr. S.R.Montille
1	Deputy Commissioner - Mr. M.Maudarbux
2	Assistant Commissioners - Mesdames H. Luckeenarain and D. Pudaruth
8	Principal Probation Officers
	- Mr G. Huldarowa
	- Mr F.Moideen
	- Mrs A.Lee Kien On
	- Mr H. Ramgobin
	- Miss L. Beeharry
	- Mr G. Rambojun
	- Mrs A. Toorbuth
	- Mr K. Kora Venciah
4	Acting Principal Probation Officers:
	- Mr S. Oomar
	- Mr N. Fareed
	- Mrs K.V. Bundhoo
	- Mr S. Bissessur
14	Senior Probation Officers
4	Acting Senior Probation Officers
25	Probation Officers

The supportive staff of the Service consisted of the following:

1	Confidential Secretary
1	Executive Officer
3	Clerical Officers
5	Word Processing Operators
3	Office attendants
6	General Workers

(ii) **Establishment (Rodrigues)**

1 Senior Probation Officer
2 Probation Officers

At the end of 2008, the Service in Rodrigues was fully staffed.

(iii) **Vacancies**

At the end of 2008, the following vacancies existed:

1 Assistant Commissioner
8 Probation Officers

(iv) **Staff on leave without pay**

- (i) Mrs G. Cowreea-Petkar, Principal Probation Officer, was still on leave without pay.
- (ii) Mrs K.R. Pillay, Principal Probation Officer, went on leave without pay on 22.10.07.

(v) **Appointment**

- (a) Mrs S.D. Ramgolam and Miss M.J.C. Laverdure were confirmed in their appointment as Probation Officer with effect from 8.01.08 and 9.01.08 respectively.
- (b) Mr V. Tulsi and Mrs D. Pudaruth were confirmed in their appointment as Assistant Commissioners with effect from 6.03.08.
- (c) Mrs A. Toorbuth and Mr K. Kora Venciah were appointed Principal Probation Officers as from 1.07.08.
- (d) Miss C. Beeharry and Mrs S. Taposea were appointed Senior Probation Officers as from 1.07.08.

(vi) **Retirement**

Mr V. Tulsi, Assistant Commissioner retired from the Service on 22.11.08.

(vii) **Assignment of Duties**

Mrs K.V. Bundhoo and Mr S. Bissessur were assigned duties of Principal Probation Officer as from 8.01.08 and 18.02.08 respectively with the setting up of the Family Court.

8. WORKLOAD

(A) Enquiries

During the year under review, the number of cases investigated and reported upon totalled 3707 as compared with 3412 for the year 2007.

The breakdown of enquiries per Court Area is given in Appendix I and the number of enquiries per institution is given hereunder:-

INSTITUTION	TOTAL
Supreme Court	440
Intermediate Court	210
District Court	856
Director of Public Prosecutions	1609
Parole Board	1
Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors	69
Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors	8
Throughcare Service (R.Y.C, Probation Home/Hostel)	362
SACIM	6
National Adoption Council	19
International Social Service	1
Child Development Unit	51
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	28
Prime Minister's Office (Home Study Report)	19
Commission of Women's Affairs (Rodrigues)	3
Probation Hostel/Home Managing Committee	16
Domestic Violence Unit	3
Progress Reports (Community Service)	5
National Transport Authority	1
TOTAL	3707

(B) Supervision

All Probation Officers were responsible for the supervision of persons placed on probation and those subjected to Community Service Order. Aftercare cases from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and the Correctional Youth Centre, Throughcare cases at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, Probation Hostel for Boys, Probation Home for Girls and parolees were supervised by Senior Probation Officers/ Probation Officers. Female cases of all types were supervised by lady Officers.

(i) **Minors**

Minors are tried in Chambers by the stipendiary Magistrate of adult courts, but when co-accused with adults, they are dealt with in open courts. The proceedings are less formal in juvenile courts and publicity is avoided. During the year under review 64 minors (55 boys and 9 girls) were convicted of criminal offences as compared with 57 (45 boys and 12 girls) in 2007. Of these, 43 minors (40 boys and 3 girls) were placed on probation, 2 male minors were committed to the Correctional Youth Centre, 6 male minors and 5 female minors were committed to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, 4 male minors were sent to the Probation Hostel for Boys, 1 male minor was sentenced to pay a fine and 3 minors (2 boys and 1 girl) were sent to orphanages.

(ii) **Probation Orders**

During the year under review, a total of 365 probation orders were made.

A breakdown of probation orders made per Court area is given below:

Court Area	Probation Orders				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Intermediate	25	3	2	-	30
Port Louis	3	1	3	-	7
Rose-Hill	48	15	4	-	67
Curepipe	3	-	-	-	3
Black River	15	2	4	-	21
Savanne	35	7	4	1	47
Moka	5	-	2	-	7
Flacq	7	3	2	1	13
Pamplemousses	20	-	3	-	23
Rivière du Rempart	44	7	4	1	56
Grand Port	44	2	9	-	55
Rodrigues	24	5	7	-	36
Total	273	45	44	3	365

The number of probation orders for the previous five years are given hereunder along with the number of each type.

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
2003	412	48	81	6	547
2004	347	38	69	6	460
2005	334	31	108	4	477
2006	231	36	80	5	352
2007	385	40	41	1	467
2008	273	45	44	3	365

The total number of probation orders in force as at 31 December 2008 was 646 as compared with 681 at the corresponding date in 2007. The number of probationers under supervision at the end of 2008 was 592 and it was 603 as at 31 December 2007.

An analysis of the new orders on the basis of Court Areas and offences committed is given in *Appendix II*.

Appendix II (a) indicates the types of offences committed by minors for which probation orders were made.

Appendix II (b) shows the age at which minors were involved in the different types of offences for which Probation Orders were made.

The total number of probationers supervised during the year was 967 as compared with 1056 for the previous year while the number of probation orders in force during 2008 was 1046 as compared with 1149 for 2007.

The following table indicates the total number of persons on probation from each of the Courts during the year

COURT AREA	ADULTS		MINORS		TOTAL
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	
Intermediate	86	8	8	-	102
Port Louis	14	3	4	-	21
Rose Hill	84	21	9	-	114
Curepipe	40	5	5	-	50
Black River	33	4	4	-	41
Savanne	79	9	11	1	100
Moka	29	9	8	1	47
Flacq	42	5	18	2	67
Pamplemousses	27	-	4	-	31
Riv. du Rempart	140	15	13	3	171
Grand Port	140	12	13	-	165
Rodrigues	45	5	8	-	58
TOTAL	759	96	105	7	967

(iii) **Age-Group Distribution**

Hereunder is the age-group distribution of offenders placed on probation during the year 2008.

MINORS

AGE GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Up to 10 years	-	-	-
11 years	-	-	-
12 years	1	-	1
13 years	1	-	1
14 years	2	-	2
15 years	8	1	9
16 years	10	-	10
17 years	22	2	24
TOTAL	44	3	47

ADULTS

AGE GROUP	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
18-22 years	103	9	112
23-27 years	44	10	54
28-32 years	40	10	50
33-37 years	24	8	32
38-42 years	28	2	30
43-47 years	25	1	26
48-52 years	5	3	8
53-57 years	2	2	4
58 and above	2	-	2
TOTAL	273	45	318

(iv) **Successful and Unsuccessful Cases**

A total number of 359 probationers successfully completed their respective periods of probation during 2008.

The number of successful and unsuccessful cases is shown below together with comparative figures for the previous five years

Type	SUCCESSFUL						UNSUCCESSFUL					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Men	477	464	337	290	290	276	2	-	-	1	1	2
Women	63	43	43	31	37	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boys	94	82	52	59	76	41	-	-	-	-	-	-
Girls	11	11	1	7	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	645	600	433	387	405	359	2	1	-	1	1	2

(C) Throughcare Service

Throughcare refers to the continuous treatment and support accorded to juveniles in Rehabilitation Youth Centre and Probation Institutions from their date of sentence or commitment, during their detention period and ends with the release of the juveniles on aftercare or at the expiry of their committal order.

Throughcare is delivered by Probation Officers who have to prepare and submit monthly reports on all cases. These supervising officers act as a link between the juveniles of the institutions and their homes through implementation of treatment programmes with their families and regular institutional and home visits. They monitor and evaluate the progress of the inmates, and if necessary, improve the family situation prior to their release in order to facilitate the integration of the juveniles in society.

During 2008, a total of 36 female minors (29 from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, 7 girls from the Probation Home) and 30 male minors comprising 19 from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and 11 from the Probation Hostel were attended to as through care cases.

As at 31 December 2008, there were 5 boys and 4 girls placed on throughcare system at the Probation institutions and 12 boys and 15 girls at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre.

(D) Aftercare

Inmates of the Correctional Youth Centre and the Rehabilitation Youth Centre who are granted leave of absence as well as prisoners released on parole remain under the supervision of Senior Probation Officers/Probation Officers until the expiry of their aftercare order or licence. The Senior Probation Officers/Probation Officers advise, support and guide these offenders during their period of supervision, thus helping them to readjust to acceptable societal norms. In 2008, a total of 2 offenders from the Correctional Youth Centre, 12 cases (5 boys and 7 girls) from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and 4 prisoners (3 men and 1 woman) who were released on parole, were under supervision.

As at 31 December 2008, 1 case from the Correctional Youth Centre, 5 cases (2 boys and 3 girls) from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and 2 parolees (1 male and one female) were still under supervision.

(E) Counselling

Probation Officers, as Social Workers of the Court, are also called upon to carry out counselling work in connection with matrimonial and other social problems on behalf of the District Magistrates. Such work forms an important part of the Probation Officers' daily duties.

The figures below show the number of counselling cases dealt with in the different Court areas in 2008

COURT AREA	NO. OF COUNSELLING CASES
Port Louis	411
Rose Hill	399
Curepipe	437
Black River	918
Savanne	474
Moka	100
Flacq	132
Pamplemousses	286
Riv. du Rempart	328
Grand Port	704
Rodrigues	193
TOTAL	4382

The table at *Appendix III* indicates the breakdown of Counselling Cases dealt with per Court Area during 2008.

9. THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER

The Community Service Order Act (No. 17 of 2002) was enacted by Parliament in July 2002. It was proclaimed on 18 November 2002 and Regulations were made on 17 January 2003. The Community Service Order is an alternative to incarceration. It is an open-treatment sentence in lieu of a custodial one passed by a criminal court in respect of adult offenders found guilty of an offence punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or defaulters whose fines do not exceed Rs. 10,000.

The Community Service Order which involves the participation of the community in the rehabilitation of an offender, offers an opportunity to the latter to repay his debt to society. It contains two elements of punishment.

- (i) The offender performs community work without any economic reward.
- (ii) The work has to be performed during the offender's free time including week-ends.

The law makes provision for a minimum of sixty hours and a maximum of three hundred hours of community work, spanning over a period of not more than twelve months.

The first case for community service was referred by Curepipe Court on 14 March 2003. During 2008, a total of 428 cases were referred for social enquiry by courts as indicated below:-

Court	No. of Cases		
	Men	Women	Total
Intermediate	139	16	155
Port Louis	50	3	53
Rose Hill	45	4	49
Curepipe	34	7	41
Black River	6	-	6
Savanne	24	-	24
Moka	9	1	10
Flacq	32	-	32
Pamplemousses	4	-	4
Riv. du Rempart	5	-	5
Grand Port	26	-	26
Rodrigues	22	1	23
TOTAL	396	32	428

317 Community Service Orders (including 19 additional orders for men and 3 for women) were made by the following courts:

Court	Orders		
	Male	Female	Total
Intermediate	110	10	120
Port Louis	31	2	33
Rose Hill	28	3	31
Curepipe	28	6	34
Black River	3	-	3
Savanne	21	-	21
Moka	7	1	8
Flacq	27	-	27
Pamplemousses	3	-	3
Riv. du Rempart	3	-	3
Grand Port	12	-	12
Rodrigues	21	1	22
TOTAL	294	23	317

The number of persons who were subjected to Community Service work in 2008 was 295 comprising 275 men and 20 women. As at 31.12.2008, there were 221 (211 men and 10 women) under supervision. Work placement for the 295 community service workers was as follows:

(i)	Government Organizations	:	200
	Police Department	:	117
	Probation and Aftercare Service	:	19
	District Courts	:	34
	Social Welfare Centres	:	17
	Citizen Advice Bureau	:	2
	Health Centres	:	8
	Hospital-Rodrigues	:	3
(ii)	Parastatal Organizations	:	35
	SILWF	:	35
(iii)	Non-Government Organizations	:	60
	Ashram/Home	:	32
	Church/Mosque/Mandir	:	13
	Drug Rehabilitation Centres	:	11
	Lois Lagesse Trust Fund	:	2
	Rodrigues Council for Social Services	:	1
	Terre de Paix	:	1

Appendix IV indicates the offences committed by persons for which Community Service Orders were made.

10. COURT AREA REPORTS

The Court area reports relate to work undertaken at regional Probation Offices attached to each of the ten District Courts in Mauritius, namely: Port-Louis, Rose-Hill, Curepipe, Black River, Savanne, Moka, Flacq, Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Grand Port as well as the District Court of Rodrigues which is presided over, on fixed schedules each year, by District Magistrates and Judges from Mauritius.

All the Probation Officers are at the disposal of the Courts, including the Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court, and they are required by law to attend to social enquiries on cases referred to them by the judicial department and also by other social organisations and to submit recommendations thereon. In addition, each officer deals with counselling which is a well integrated and well established daily activity of the Probation Officer, whereby, mediation and reconciliation are attempted in cases of matrimonial disputes, family disputes and other social contentions. Supervision of offenders, adults and minors, are carried out in each regional office and their rehabilitation is attempted in the open through 'advising, assisting and befriending' which is the motto of the Probation and Aftercare Service. Following the enactment of the Community Service Order Act on 19 July 2002, supervision of cases benefitting Community Service Order started as from March 2003.

Each regional Probation Office comprises, as staff, a Principal Probation Officer, Senior Probation Officers and Probation Officers. The Principal Probation Officer supervises all aspects of work performed by both the Senior Probation Officers and the Probation Officers of the area. His duty ranges from control of registers, supervision files and other documents to discussing difficult cases and other cases presenting complex social problems before making appropriate recommendations to Courts. The removal of young delinquents from their home environment with the idea of offering them appropriate institutional treatment is discussed well in advance with the Principal Probation Officer who also acts as liaison officer between regional offices and the Head Office.

The Senior Probation Officer of each area, is responsible for enquiring into and submitting social enquiry reports on cases referred by the following: the Supreme Court, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the National Adoption Council, the Parole Board, the International Social Service.

The Probation Officers on their part have as workload the supervision of probationers. They, therefore, attend to most of the criminal offenders and counselling cases referred by District Magistrates who request for social enquiry reports on certain cases; they also enquire into cases of children requiring medical treatment abroad, referred by the Society In Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius (SACIM). Cases of Child Abuse brought before Court by officers of the Child Development Unit (CDU) of the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare, for a Protection Order are referred to the Probation Officer for Social Enquiry and for recommending appropriate shelter for the abused children.

An officer among the Probation Officers attached to a regional office, is assigned the responsibility for:

- (i) keeping up-to-date records in registers and other documents;
- (ii) acting as Secretary to the District Probation Committee;
- (iii) distributing fairly, among officers, the number of cases referred by Court for social enquiry;
- (iv) preparing and submitting monthly and annual returns.

The causative factors for delinquent behaviour, almost common in all the court areas as delineated in the Social Enquiry Reports, could be listed as follows: poverty, low level of education, broken homes, drug and alcohol abuse, poor housing conditions, promiscuous environment, absence of recreational facilities, rapid industrialisation, degradation/decline of both moral and spiritual values, irresponsible parents.

Reports on the various court areas, highlighting their respective workloads during 2008 are detailed below:

Port Louis Court Area

Port Louis, the capital, which is of the extent of 42.7 km², is the smallest district of the Island. It has a dense population comprising almost all the ethnic groups of the Mauritian population.

The Port Louis District Court, located at the New Court House, Pope Hennessy street, since May 1997, comprises three divisions covering regions like Sainte Croix, Roche Bois, Cité la Cure, Vallée des Prêtres, Vallée Pitot, Plaine Verte, Camp Yloff, Tranquebar, Cassis, Cite Vallijee, Grand River North West, Pailles and La Tour Koenig.

With the coming into operation of the New Court House, the Intermediate Court was transferred to Port-Louis as from May 1997.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 555 as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	45
Solicitor General	19
Intermediate Court	39
District Court	91
Director of Public Prosecutions	234
Child Development Unit	4
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	4
Throughcare Service (RYC)	44
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	2
Prime Minister's Office	5
SACIM	1
Probation Home for Girls (Throughcare)	14
Probation Hostel for Boys (Throughcare)	47
Probation Home/Hostel Managing Committee	3
Parole Board	1
Domestic Violence Unit	2
TOTAL	555

During 2008 seven probation orders were made by the Port Louis District Court as follows: three male adults, one female adult and three male minors. Out of a total of nine minors (six male and three female) convicted of criminal offences during the year, one male minor was sent to the Probation Hostel for Boys, two male minors to orphanages, three female minors to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and three male minors were placed on probation.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 21 (comprising 14 male adults, 3 female adults and 4 male minors)

Community service workers: 49 (comprising 47 male adults and 2 female adults)

Through care cases: 23 (comprising 4 R.Y.C boys, 8 R.Y.C girls, 2 Home inmates and 9 Hostel inmates)

Aftercare case: 1 female parole licensee

A total number of 411 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Port Louis District Probation Committee met on two occasions during the year: on 10.07.08 and 20.11.08.

A total sum of Rs. 1400 was spent from the Poor Box Fund during the year 2008 to help needy probationers. There was Rs. 500 as cash in hand at the end of the year.

Rose-Hill Court Area

The Rose Hill Court area is of an extent of 41 km². The Rose Hill Court, comprising four divisions, is situated in the lower Plaine Wilhems and has jurisdiction over the following regions: Rose Hill, Coromandel, Beau Bassin, Cité Chebel, Cité Barkly, Stanley, Camp Levieux, Quatre Bornes, Cité Beau Sejour, Cité Kennedy, Palma and Paillotte.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 515, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	27
Solicitor General	22
Intermediate Court	37
District Court	135
Director of Public Prosecutions	181
SACIM	2
National Adoption Council	4
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	17
Child Development Unit	2
Prime Minister's Office	5
International Social Service	1
Throughcare Service (RYC)	45
Probation Home for Girls Managing Cmtee	10
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	9
Probation Home for Girls (Throughcare)	18
TOTAL	515

During 2008, sixty seven probation orders were made by the Rose Hill Court as follows: forty-eight male adults, fifteen female adults and four male minors. All the four male minors who were referred to the Probation and Aftercare Service for social enquiry during the year were placed on probation.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 114 (comprising 84 male adults, 21 female adults and 9 male minors)

Community Service workers: 47 (44 male adults and 3 female adults)

Throughcare cases: 10 (comprising 5 R.Y.C girls, 2 R.Y.C boys and 3 Home inmates)

Aftercare cases: 6 (comprising 2 RYC boys, 2 R.Y.C girls and 2 male parole licensees)

A total number of 399 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Rose-Hill Probation Committee met twice during the year: on 13.06.08 and 14.11.08.

A sum of Rs 413 was spent from the Poor Box Fund during the year. At the end of the year, the cash in hand indicated an amount of Rs. 350.

Curepipe Court Area

The Curepipe Court area is of an extent of about 196 Km². It covers the upper part of Plaines Wilhems and has jurisdiction over the following regions: Curepipe, Vacoas, Floreal, Phoenix, Eau Coulée, Highlands, Henrietta, La Marie, Midlands, Cité Mangalkhan, Cité Atlee, Cité Joachim, Cité L'Oiseau, Cité Malherbes, Cité La Caverne, Cité La Brasserie, Cité St. Luc etc.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 539 as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	40
Solicitor General	27
Intermediate Court	20
District Court	95
Director of Public Prosecutions	213
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	26
Throughcare Service (RYC)	81
National Adoption Council	4
Child Development Unit	6
Prime Minister's Office	2
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	1
Probation Hostel for Boys (Throughcare)	6
Probation Home for Girls (Throughcare)	8
Probation Home for Girls Managing Cmtee	4
SACIM	1
Community Service(Progress)	5
TOTAL	539

During 2008, three probation orders in respect of male adults were made by the Curepipe Court. Out of a total of four minors (three male minors and one female minor) convicted of criminal offences during the year, one male minor was sent to the Probation Hostel for Boys and two male minors and one female minor to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 50 (comprising 40 male adults, 5 female adults and 5 male minors)

Community Service workers: 46 (40 male adults and 6 female adults)

Throughcare cases: 14 (comprising 7 R.Y.C girls, 5 R.Y.C boys, 1 Home inmate and 1 Hostel inmate)

Aftercare cases: 4 (comprising 1 R.Y.C boy and 3 R.Y.C girls)

A total number of 437 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Curepipe District Probation Committee met on one occasion during the year on 27.02.08.

A sum of Rs. 100 was spent out of the Poor Box Fund during the year. The cash in hand at the end of December 2008 indicated an amount of Rs 200.

Black River Court Area

The Black River Court area is the most deprived district of the island. It spreads over a long coastal line dotted with poor fishing villages. Its working population is composed of a majority of fishermen and agricultural labourers.

The District Court of Black River, situated at Bambous, has jurisdiction over the following regions: Pointe aux Sables, Petite Rivière, Albion, Canot, Flic-en-Flac, Tamarin, La Preneuse, Grande Rivière Noire, Petite Rivière Noire, Case Noyale, Chamarel, La Gaulette.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 197, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	10
Solicitor General	19
Intermediate Court	9
District Court	51
Director of Public Prosecutions	81
The C.Y.C. Board of Visitors	1
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	3
Child Development Unit	5
Throughcare Service (RYC)	10
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	1
Probation Home for Girls (Throughcare)	1
Probation Hostel for Boys (Throughcare)	3
National Adoption Council	3
TOTAL	197

During 2008, twenty one probation orders were made by the Black River District Court as follows: fifteen male adults, two female adults and four male minors. Out of a total of five male minors convicted of criminal offences during 2008, one was fined and four boys were placed on probation.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 41 (comprising 33 male adults, 4 female adults and 4 male minors)

Community Service workers: 3 male adults

Throughcare cases: 4 (3 R.Y.C boys and 1 Home inmate)

Aftercare case: 1 C.Y.C boy

A total number of 918 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Black River District Probation Committee met twice during the year, on 19.06.08 and 20.12.08

A sum of Rs. 1700 was spent from the Poor Box Fund during 2008 to help needy probationers. Cash in hand at the end of the year indicated an amount of Rs. 250.

Savanne Court Area

The Savanne Court area spreads over a long coastal line dotted with relatively deprived fishing villages like Riambel, Rivière des Galets, Bel Ombre and Baie du Cap. Other regions over which the District Court has jurisdiction are: Chemin Grenier, Surinam, Souillac, Rivière des Anguilles, Batimarais, Camp Diable, Rivière du Poste, Grand Bois and Bois Chéri.

The Savanne District Court is situated in Souillac.

During the year a total number of 348 social enquiries were carried out as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	19
Solicitor General	7
Intermediate Court	20
District Court	72
Director of Public Prosecutions	203
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	4
Throughcare Service (RYC)	13
Child Development Unit	1
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	4
Probation Hostel for Boys (Throughcare)	5
TOTAL	348

During 2008, forty-seven probation orders were made by the Savanne District Court, as follows: thirty five male adults, seven female adults, four male minors and one female minor. Of the eight minors (six boys and two girls) convicted of criminal offences during 2008 five were placed on probation, one boy was sent to the Probation Hostel and two (one boy and one girl) to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 100 (comprising 79 male adults, 9 female adults
11 male minors and 1 female minor)

Community Service workers: 26 male adults

Throughcare cases: 4 (comprising 1 R.Y.C girl, 2 R.Y.C boys and 1
Hostel inmate)

Aftercare case: 1 R.Y.C boy

A total number of 474 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Savanne District Probation Committee met once during the year, on 17.12.08.

An amount of Rs 300 was spent out of the Poor Box Fund. A balance of Rs. 100 was indicated as cash in hand at the end of December 2008.

Moka Court Area

The Moka Court covers an area of 230.5 km². The District Court of Moka situated in Moka, has jurisdiction over the following regions: Saint Pierre, Quartier Militaire, Moka, Montagne Blanche, Dagotière, Camp Thorel, L'Esperance, L'Avenir, La Laura, Malenga, Medine, Melrose, Ripailles, Dubreuil, Cote d'Or, Verdun and Alma.

During the year a total of 169 social enquiries were carried out as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	20
Solicitor General	7
Intermediate Court	7
District Court	24
Director of Public Prosecutions	78
Through Care Service (RYC)	21
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	2
Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors	7
Child Development Unit	3
TOTAL	169

During 2008, seven probation orders were made by the Moka District Court, as follows: five male adults and two male minors.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 47 (comprising 29 male adults, 9 female adults, 8 male minors and 1 female minor)

Community Service workers: 13 (comprising 10 male adults and 3 female adults)

Throughcare cases: 2 (1 R.Y.C girl and 1 R.Y.C boy)

Aftercare case: 2 RYC girls

A total number of 100 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Moka District Probation Committee met on two occasions during the year, on 9.05.08 and 15.12.08

An amount of Rs 300 was spent during the year. There was Rs 400 as cash in hand at the end of December 2008.

Flacq Court Area

Flacq, the largest district of Mauritius, is approximately 297.9 km². It is found on the eastern side of the island.

The District Court of Flacq is situated at Central Flacq and it has jurisdiction over the following regions: Flacq, Poste de Flacq, Laventure, Bon Accueil, Brisée Verdière, Mare D'Australia, Lallmatie, St Julien Village, St. Julien D'Hotman, Medine Camp de Masque, Mont Ida, Camp de Masque Pavé, FUEL, Bonne Mère, Bramsthan, Ecroignard, Camp Ithier, Bel Air, Caroline, Ernest Florent, Olivia, Belle Rive, Sebastopol, Poste La Fayette, Belle Mare, Palmar, Trou d'Eau Douce, Grand River South East and Quatre Cocos.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 326, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	33
Solicitor General	16
Intermediate Court	19
District Court	73
Director of Public Prosecutions	144
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	2
Throughcare Service (RYC)	17
Child Development Unit	8
R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	2
Prime Minister's Office	1
National Adoption Council	3
Domestic Violence Unit	1
CYC Board of Visitors	7
TOTAL	326

During 2008, thirteen probation orders were made by the Flacq District Court as follows: seven male adults, three female adults, two male minors and one female minor. Out of a total of five minors convicted of criminal offences during the year, three minors (two boys and one girl) were placed on probation and two male minors were committed to the Correctional Youth Centre.

The number of cases supervised during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 67 (comprising 42 male adults, 5 female adults, 18 male minors and 2 female minors)

Community Service workers: 47 (46 male adults and 1 female adult)

Throughcare cases: 2 R.Y.C boys

Aftercare case: 1 C.Y.C boy

A total number of 132 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Flacq District Probation Committee met on one occasion during the year, on 12.09.08.

A total amount of Rs. 800 was spent out of the Poor Box Fund during the year. There was an amount of Rs. 200 as cash in hand at the end of the year.

Pamplemousses Court Area

The Pamplemousses Court Area is of an extent of 178.2 km². The Pamplemousses District Court is situated at Pamplemousses and it has jurisdiction over the following regions: Trou aux Biches, Triolet, Pointe aux Piments, Arsenal, Morcellement St André, Plaines des Papayes, Fond du Sac, Pamplemousses, Petite Julie, Congomah, Calebasses, Long Mountain, Crève Coeur, Terre Rouge, Ville Bague, Tombeau Bay, D'Epinay and Pont Praslin.

The number of enquiries carried out during the year totalled 358, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	25
Solicitor General	25
Intermediate Court	19
District Court	68
Director of Public Prosecutions	178
Throughcare Service (RYC)	21
Child Development Unit	15
National Adoption Council	2
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	2
National Transport Authority	1
Prime Minister's Office	2
TOTAL	358

During 2008, twenty-three probation orders in respect of twenty male adults and three male minors were made by the Pamplemousses District Court. Out of a total of five minors convicted of criminal offences during the year, one male minor was sent to the Probation Hostel for Boys; two male minors were admitted to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and two boys were placed on probation (one of them benefited from an additional order).

The number of cases under supervision during the year was as follows

Probationers: 31 (comprising 27 male adults and 4 male minors)

Community Service workers: 6 male adults

Throughcare cases: 3 R.Y.C girls

Aftercare case: 1 male parolee

A total number of 286 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Pamplemousses District Probation Committee met once during the year, on 26.08.08.

A sum of Rs. 1200 was spent from the Poor Box Fund for refund of travelling and financial assistance to needy probationers. An amount of Rs. 900 was indicated as cash in hand at the end of December 2008.

Rivière du Rempart Court Area

The Rivière du Rempart Court area is of an extent of 259 km². The Rivière du Rempart District Court is situated at Mapou. It has jurisdiction over the following villages: Grand Bay, Cap Malheureux, Grand Gaube, Goodlands, Petit Raffray, Poudre D'Or Village, Rivière du Rempart, Roches Noires, Plaine des Roches, Cottage, Poudre D'Or Hamlet, Belle Vue Maurel, and other small villages.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 260, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	25
Solicitor General	17
Intermediate Court	30
District Court	65
Director of Public Prosecutions	111
National Adoption Council	2
The R.Y.C Board of Visitors	3
Prime Minister's Office	1
Child Development Unit	6
TOTAL	260

During 2008, fifty-six probation orders were made by the Rivière du Rempart District Court as follows: forty four male adults, seven female adults, four male minors and one female minor.

The number of cases under supervision during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 171 (comprising 140 male adults, 15 female adults, 13 male minors and 3 female minors)

Community Service workers: 9 male adults

Throughcare cases: 2 (1 R.Y.C girl and 1 R.Y.C boy)

Aftercare case : 1 R.Y.C boy

A total number of 328 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

A sum of Rs 700 was spent out of the Poor Box Fund as refund of bus fares and financial assistance to needy probationers. There was no cash in hand at the end of the year.

Grand Port Court Area

The Grand Port Court Area covers an extent of about 260 km². The Grand Port District Court, situated in Mahebourg, has jurisdiction over regions like Nouvelle France, Mare Tabac, St. Hubert, Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Plaine Magnien, L'Escalier, New Grove, Cluny, Vieux Grand Port, Bois des Amourettes and Bambous Virieux.

The number of social enquiries carried out during the year totalled 329 as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	27
Solicitor General	6
Intermediate Court	10
District Court	120
Director of Public Prosecutions	146
The R.Y.C. Board of Visitors	3
Probation Hostel for Boys (Throughcare)	1
Throughcare Service (RYC)	6
Prime Minister's Office	3
Child Development Unit	1
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	5
SACIM	1
TOTAL	329

During 2008, fifty five probation orders were made by the Grand Port District Court as follows: forty-four male adults, two female adults and nine male minors. Out of the ten male minors convicted of criminal offences, nine were placed on probation and one was sent to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre.

The number of cases under supervision during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 165 (comprising 140 male adults, 12 female adults and 13 male minors)

Community Service workers: 18 male adults

Throughcare cases: 2 (1 R.Y.C girl and 1 R.Y.C boy)

A total number of 704 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Grand Port District Probation Committee met twice during the year on 10.07.08 and 10.12.08.

An amount of Rs.450 was spent out of the Poor Box Fund during the year and there was Rs.50.00 as cash in hand as at 31.12.08.

Rodrigues Court Area

Rodrigues, the largest outer island of the Republic of Mauritius, obtained its autonomy in October 2002. Its area is 108 km². There are positive changes in the general field of development of the island. The main administration consisting of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, The District Court House, the Harbour, the main Post Office and the Probation Office as well as commercial activities, including the main market, banks and other important services, are found in Port Mathurin, the capital.

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly, established in October 2002, exercises its functions on behalf of the government of the Republic of Mauritius as the island is governed by the same Constitution. The Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly comprises the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and five Commissioners.

Most of the Public administration falls under the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. They are regrouped into seven clusters of several departments with a Departmental Head for each cluster. The Departmental Heads are accountable to the Island Chief Executive. The Probation and Aftercare Service is under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Cooperatives, Fire Services, Health and Prisons and Reform Institutions.

The Rodriguan economy is mainly based on agriculture, stock rearing, fishing, tourism and handicraft.

The Rodrigues Court has jurisdiction over the whole island. Before October 2007, a visiting Magistrate/ or a Judge came periodically to administer justice. Since October 2007, there is a full time Senior Magistrate in Rodrigues. The Probation Office occupies two spacious rooms situated in the Court House.

The number of enquiries carried out by the Probation and Aftercare Service in Rodrigues during the year totalled 111, as follows:

INSTITUTION	NO. OF SOCIAL ENQUIRIES
Supreme Court	3
Solicitor General	1
District Court	62
Director of Public Prosecutions	40
Commission of Women's Affairs	3
SACIM	1
National Adoption Council	1
TOTAL	111

During 2008, thirty-six probation orders relating to twenty four male adults, five female adults and seven male minors were made by the Rodrigues District Court. Of the eight minors convicted of criminal offences, seven boys were placed on probation and one girl was sent to an orphanage.

The number of cases under supervision during the year was as follows:

Probationers: 58 (comprising 45 male adults, 5 female adults and 8 male minors)

Community Service workers: 11 (10 male adults and 1 female adult)

A total number of 193 counselling cases were attended to during the year.

The Rodrigues District Probation Committee met on 20.02.08, 18.06.08 and 20.08.08.

11. PROBATION INSTITUTIONS

A. The Probation Hostel for Boys

1. Location and Building

The Probation Hostel for Boys was inaugurated on 20 May, 1954. It is housed since March 1961 in a Government owned one-storey building, situated at Impasse Desvaux, Les Casernes, Curepipe. The first floor provides separate accommodation for a maximum of twenty boys plus lavatories and bathrooms. The ground floor includes the quarters for the Houseparents, the hall and the kitchen.

On 15 March 1995, a new block of the Probation Hostel was inaugurated. On the ground floor there is a mess room, a store, a committee room, toilet and a workshop. The first floor consists of a waiting room and two offices, one of which accommodates the Curepipe Probation staff. The Hostel premises are secured around partly by fencing and partly by a concrete wall.

2. Functions

The main role of the Hostel, a semi-open institution, is to provide residential rehabilitation treatment for male minor offenders, aged up to 18 years, for a period not exceeding three years. The boys are sent to the institution because the conditions prevailing in their home are unfavourable and uncondusive to their rehabilitation in the open. At the Hostel they are under the care of a couple acting as Houseparents. After their stay at the institution, they integrate their respective homes. Depending on their age and their characteristics, they are either encouraged to attend school or take up employment on apprenticeship. At the institution, the boys also perform gardening, cleaning of the premises and participate in recreational activities.

3. Management

The Probation Hostel which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions is managed by a Managing Committee appointed on a yearly basis by the Ministry. The day-to-day running of the Hostel is done by the Warden under the supervision of the Secretary. A couple, who acts as Steward and Housemother, takes care of the residents. Assistant Stewards help the Houseparents in supervising the residents at night and are also called upon to replace the couple when they are on leave.

The Managing Committee consisted of the following members for the year 2008:

Chairperson	: Mr T. Thodda
Vice-Chairperson	: Mr D. Jooty
Treasurer	: Sir P. Simonet – <i>C.B.E</i>
Assistant Treasurer	: Mr A. Dajee

- Members :
- : Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare or his representative
 - : Representative of Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizen Welfare & Reform Institutions
 - : Representative of Ministry of Youth & Sports
 - : Representative of Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare
 - : Mr V. Tulloo – M.S.K
 - : Mr R. Soobah
 - : Mr P. Mautadin
 - : Secretary/ Principal Probation Officer

4. **Staff**

During the year 2008, the staff was as follows:

Mrs. D. Pudaruth	-	Secretary/Principal Probation Officer - up to 9.3.2008
Mrs. K.V. Bundhoo	-	Secretary/Ag.Principal Probation Officer as from 10.3.08
Mr. N. Ramasawmy	-	Warden/Senior Probation Officer
Mr. L.G. Pompeya	-	Steward
Mrs. V.N.Pompeya	-	Housemother
Mrs. S. Allyjaun	-	Word Processing Operator
Mr. K. Chooramun	-	Assistant Steward
Mr. B. Nemchand	-	Assistant Steward

Probation Officers, Messrs N. Heeroo, D. Thumiah, Mesdames S. Jondah, H. Gopee, N. Chundunsing, S. Baleekdar and Miss A. Munian attended the Probation Hostel to assist the Warden.

5. **Finance**

(a) **Income**

In January 2008 an amount of Rs 375, 000 was received as part of the annual grant for the year 2007/2008.

In August 2008 a further amount of Rs 375,000 was received for the year 2008-2009.

(b) **Expenditure**

The total expenses during the year amounted to Rs 913,606.35

(c) **Bank Account as at 31.12.08:**

Savings Account with Cheque Book: Rs. 299,169.60

6. Residents on roll, Admissions and Discharges

During the year, three boys were admitted to the institution and four were discharged. One was sent to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre for Boys following an application made by Warden for removal from the institution. Another was granted special leave from the Hostel as per Managing Committee's decision while one resident was committed to Terre de Paix until the expiry of his order by the Rose-Hill Court.

As at 31.12.08, there were five boys on roll.

7. Activities

(a) General

- (i) The residents over 16 years were encouraged to work outside the Hostel in apprenticeship. Those below 16 years were sent to school (Prevocational classes) in the vicinity. They also helped in the general cleaning of the premises and in the kitchen and gardening.
- (ii) All the earnings of the residents were deposited on their individual accounts at local banks.
- (iii) It was the practice at the institution to celebrate the birthdays of residents regularly.
- (iv) On 2.3.08 members of "Legion de Morale" a socio-religious group called in to perform a prayer with the residents.
- (v) Residents of Catholic faith attended mass in company of the houseparents on Sundays.
- (vi) On 10.3.08 the residents proceeded to the Senior Citizen Recreation Centre at Pointe aux Sables to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Independence of Mauritius.
- (vii) On 11.3.08, on the occasion of the Republic Day, the Chairman, Mr Thodda read the Prime Minister's message and addressed the inmates, their parents, members of the Managing Committee and the staff present. Refreshment was served afterwards.
- (viii) The residents performed daily physical training under the supervision of the Steward in the morning before breakfast.
- (ix) A talk on hygiene was given by Dr H. Bhowon on 8.3.08.
- (x) On 28 and 29 June 2008, the residents participated in a residential seminar organized by the S.O.S Village at Pointe Jerome, Mahebourg.
- (xi) Mr V. Canhye from the organization 'Art of Living' held a few sessions on Meditation and breathing control with the residents and the staff of the hostel.

- (xii) On 20.9.08, Mr Shakeel Maiharaub from the Ministry of Youth & Sports delivered a speech on 'Life Skills Management'.
- (xiii) ASP Ramsurrun from the Curepipe District Headquarters delivered a talk on value of education and consequences of bad actions on 26.9.08.

(b) Leisure activities and outings

- (i) Leisure activities, both indoor and outdoor, were scheduled on a regular basis. The indoor games included, amongst others, carrom, dominoes and lexicon. As outdoor games, they played football, badminton and basketball.
- (ii) On 4.8.08, residents were taken to Bras d'Eau, Poste La Fayette and Belle Mare.
- (iii) On 6.9.08, the inmates were brought to Grand Bassin, Petrin, Alexandra Viewpoint, National Park and Tamarin Public beach.
- (iv) The Annual End-of-year lunch was held at Ah Yoon Restaurant, Vacoas on 23.12.08 in the presence of the residents, the staff, members of the Managing Committee and the Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare.

(c) Medical coverage

A Medical Officer from the Curepipe Area Health Centre examined the residents of the institution on a monthly basis. In cases of emergency, they were brought to the Area Health Centre of Curepipe for treatment. Moreover, newly admitted residents underwent general check-up at the hospital.

(d) Literacy classes

Mr I.A.R. Ibrahim, Supply Teacher from the Ministry of Education, conducted literacy and numeracy classes with inmates at the institution during the year.

(e) Talk by NGO

Social Workers from Dr I. Goomany Centre delivered a talk on 'Drugs and Aids' on 18.10.08.

(f) Home Leave

The boys were granted home leave on the last week-end of each month. They also benefited from special leaves during Christmas and New Year festivities.

(g) Counselling sessions

Mrs Reekoye and Miss Ramessur, Psychologists held counselling sessions with the residents during the year.

(h) Community Service Order

During the year, thirteen (13) Community Service workers performed community work at the institution as per the schedule of work indicated in their respective Community Service Order.

(i) Talks Delivered and Outings Organised

<i>Office</i>	<i>Outings</i>	<i>Talks</i>
Pamplemousses	16.2.08 – Appravasi Ghat/Hospice St Jean De Dieu, La Nicolière	10.4.08 – Non-violence (Mrs O. D. Ramoutar)
Riv. du Rempart	15.3.08 – La Cuvette & Bain Bœuf	6.8.08 – Adolescence & sexual education (Mr V. Chengadu)
Moka	19.4.08 – Melrose Botanical Garden & Belle Mare public beach	5.8.08 – Juvenile delinquency (Mrs S. Jooria & Miss A. Seetohul)
Black River	31.5.08 – Black River Gorges & Le Morne public beach	17.4.08 – Anger Management (Mr S. Oomar & Ms C. Beeharry)
Grand Port	19.7.08 – Musée Vieux Grand Port & Blue Bay public beach	15.10.08 – Family and social relationship (Mr D. Thumiah)
Savanne	8.8.08 – Midlands dam, Gris Gris & Rivière des Galets	11.6.08 – Relationship between peers (Mrs S. Jondah & Mr S. Baboolall)
Rose-Hill	6.9.08 – Grand Bassin Health track & Le Morne	4.3.08 – Discipline (Mrs S. Baleekdar)
Flacq	18.10.08 – Belle Rive Garden, Cascade G.R.S.E & Belle Mare beach	21.5.08 – Positive thinking (Mrs J.D. Seeparsand)
Port Louis	15.11.08 – Le Dauguet and Mont Choisy Public beach	5.4.08 – Drugs & juvenile Delinquency (Mr I. Dhannoo & Mr A.S.Boodhoo)
Curepipe	29.11.08 – Mare aux Vacoas, Petrin & La Preneuse public beach	24.9.08 – Coping with stress in life (Mrs H. Gopee & Mr V.K. Mattadeen)
Suicide Prevention Unit		14.11.08 – Essential Life Skills (Mr H. Ramgobin)

(j) Visits

- Six students from the University of Mauritius visited the institution in the month of July 2008.

-On 25.9.08, two representatives of the Law reform Commission, Mr. Rosario Domaingue and Mrs. Odile Lim Tung, visited the institution. They were received by the Chairman of the Managing Committee, Mr. T. Thodda, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. M. Maudarbux, Assistant Commissioner, Mrs. D. Pudaruth, and the Secretary.

- Staff of the Probation and Aftercare Service, members of the Managing Committee and parents of residents visited the institution during the year.

(k) Football Training

Officers from the Probation Staff had football training sessions with the residents once weekly from 3.00 to 6.00 p.m.

(l) Donations and Acknowledgements

The Hostel was thankful to those who made donations to the institution and for their interest in the welfare of the residents.

B. THE PROBATION HOME FOR GIRLS

1. Location

The Probation Home for Girls was established on 8 August 1988. It is presently housed in a rented building at 5, La Croix Street, Forest Side. It comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 offices, a conference room, quarters for houseparents, a dining room, a large kitchen, a classroom, a T.V room, a garage and 2 toilets (1 with bathroom).

The present building provides sufficient space and privacy for the girls and staff to carry out their daily activities. Its yard consists of a vegetable and flower garden and a large laundry. The Probation Home for Girls can accommodate a maximum of twenty girls, either offenders placed on probation who are required to stay at the institution during the first year of their orders, or girls found beyond parental control, on committal orders.

2. Functions

The Probation Home for Girls is a semi-open residential institution, which caters for girls below the age of eighteen whose home surroundings are detrimental to their proper character formation and social functioning, hence necessitating removal and placement in a growth-favouring milieu.

The main objective of the Probation Home is to provide a congenial home environment for the proper development and rehabilitation of the girls. Inmates are looked after by a residential couple acting as mother and father figures, assistant housemothers, and other resource persons. They are also encouraged in acquiring numeracy, literacy and other essential life skills.

3. Management

The Minister responsible for the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions appoints a Managing Committee which is composed of voluntary members from the community, representatives of some ministries, including a representative of the parent Ministry and members of the Probation Staff, the Secretary being a Principal Probation Officer. The Probation Officer/Warden who is not a member of the Committee also attends the meeting. The Managing Committee meets once a month to administer the Home and, also ensures the welfare of the inmates. The financial subcommittee, which meets once every month, focuses on the financial aspects of the institution.

The overall responsibility of the Home rests, however, with the Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare.

The Managing Committee during the year 2008 was constituted as follows:

Chairperson	: Mrs S. Baguant, C.S.K., O.S.K.
Vice-chairperson	: Mrs V. Menon
Treasurer	: Mrs M.J. Baudot
Assistant Treasurer	: Mrs A. Poule
Members	: Representative of the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare
	: Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare Service or his representative
	: Representative of the Ministry of Social Security, N.S, S.C.W and Reform Institutions
	: Representative of the Ministry of Youth & Sports
	: Representative of the Prime Minister's Office
	: Mrs C. Boodram
	: Mrs M.C. Monty
	: Mrs F. Rungasamy
Secretary	: Principal Probation Officer

4. Staff

1. Principal Probation Officer/Secretary: Mr. K. Kora Venciah
2. Probation Officer/Warden: Mrs. R.D. Heeraman
3. Supportive staff - Probation Officers: Ms. N. Chackoor, Mrs. S. Gentil-Baleekdar, Mrs. N. Chundunsing, Ms. U. Seenauth
4. Houseparents: Mr. & Mrs. Ramdewor
5. Assistant Housemothers: Mrs. N. Roopun, Mrs. D. Essoo, Mrs M. Lascar, Mrs M. Ramnarain, Mrs N. Cally (up to September 2008)
6. Watchman: Mr Moonesawmy (up to September 2008)
7. Gardener: Mr M. Khodabux

5. Finance

(a) Income

The Probation Home for Girls financed its activities by an annual grant of Rs.850, 000.00 from the Government for the financial year July 2007-June 2008. For the financial year July 2008-June 2009, the annual grant was increased to Rs.950,000.00.

(b) Expenditure

The total amount of expenditure during the year July 2007-June 2008 was Rs 797,000.27. Dhanjee Associates audited the Accounts of the Probation Home for Girls.

6. Admissions, Discharges and Roll

During the year 2008, there were three admissions and three girls were discharged from the institution. At the end of the year, there were four girls on roll.

7. Major Activities

(a) Training/Daily Activities/Leisure

(i) Education

The two inmates, who attended Teresa Ball Centre, also followed tuitions on Tuesdays and Fridays.

One inmate attended Notre Dame College as from 05.02.08 and followed 'Alliance Française' tuitions on Mondays.

Two inmates attended Ambassador College.

The housemothers and the staff coached inmates in their studies.

Since 30.10.08, a community service worker, who was a retired Education Officer, helped the inmates in their studies.

(ii) Courses attended by inmates

Probation Officer, Mrs N. Chundusing carried out cooking classes with inmates and the Warden helped them in their embroidery and painting works.

In February 2008, inmates attended a "Youth Empowerment Seminar" at the Shelter for Women and Children in Distress of Forest Side.

From April to August 2008, inmates followed “The Life Skills Management Course” at the Probation Home, delivered by representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. They covered topics such as Identity, Achievement, Communication, Stereotypes and Values, Adolescence, Choices, Parenthood and Sexuality. At the end of the course, inmates were awarded a certificate on 8.8.08.

In July 2008, inmates were taken to the Shelter for Women & Children in Distress of Forest Side to attend a session on “Crime Prevention” delivered by Police Sergeant, Ms. Bagoban, from the Crime Prevention Unit.

(iii) Talks delivered and outings organized by regional Probation Offices.

<i>Offices</i>	<i>Outings</i>	<i>Talks Topics</i>
Suicide Prevention Unit		Essential Life Skills 7.3.08 (Mr H. Ramgobin)
Moka	Melrose Botanical Garden & Belle Mare Plage 22.3.08	Juvenile Delinquency 27.8.08 (Mrs S.P. Jooria and Ms. A. Seetohul)
Port Louis	Le Dauguet, Choisy Beach 30.8.08	Drugs & Juvenile Delinquency 17.7.08 (Mrs U.D. Ramead and Mr A.S.Boodhoo)
Black River	B.River Gorges & Le Morne Beach 21.6.08	Anger Management 17.4.08 (Mr S. Oomar and Ms. C. Beeharry)
Grand Port	Musée Vieux Grand Port & Blue Bay Beach 5.7.08	Family & Social Relationships 31.10.08 (Mrs S. Baboolall)
Flacq	Belle Rive, G.R.S.E & Belle Mare Plage 23.8.08	Family & Social Bonding 5.8.08 (Ms. U. Seenauth)

Rose-Hill	Grand Bassin, Alexandra Falls, Flic-en-Flac 13.9.08	Importance of discipline 27.2.08 (Mr N. Pursoty and Ms. C. Laverdure)
Curepipe	Mare aux Vacoas, Petrin, La Preneuse Beach 4.10.08	Coping with life stress 27.9.08 (Mrs M.J. Rambaree and Ms. N. Chackoor)
Pamplemousses	Appravasi Ghat, Hospice St Jean, La Nicolière, Aquarium 18.10.08	Philosophy of non- violence 10.4.08 (Mrs O.D.Ramoutar)
Riv. du Rempart	La Cuvette & Bain Bœuf 22.11.08	Adolescence & sexual problems 25.11.08 (Mrs J. Cesar and Ms. R. Nazurally)
Savanne	Plaine Champagne 13.12.08	Relationships among peers 21.11.08 (Mr S. Baboolall and Mrs S. Jondah)

(iv) Main activities

Inmates were trained to participate in daily household chores. The residents made maximum use of the spacious courtyard to practise gardening and sport activities like badminton and volleyball. Indoor activities included reading, learning of moral values through songs, television and video viewing at specific times and listening to music and performing dances. Once a month they were allowed to proceed on weekend leave and occasionally they accompanied the staff out for shopping. During home leaves, inmates having no family were sent to the Shelter for Women and Children in Distress of Forest Side.

On different occasions, inmates visited the Shelter for Women and Children in Distress of Forest Side to participate in joint activities.

Other activities during the year 2008

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Place held</i>
March	- Inmates attended a cultural programme i.c.w. the National Celebration Day -National Day Celebration	Pointe aux Sables Recreational Centre Probation Home
April	-Inmates attended mass during Easter festival -Inmates watched cinema -Meeting with SADC delegates	Ste Therese Church Novelty Cinema Shelter for Women & Children in distress, Forest Side
May	-Inmates participated in Fancy fair at school	Notre Dame College
June	-Birthday celebration of two inmates	Probation Home
July	-Inmates participated in a joint activity with the RYC girls, organized by ANPPCAN, to have a general idea about hotel trade -From 28.7.08 to 31.7.08, inmates followed a training in creative activities such as drawing, painting, macramé, card & flower making and basketry	Paul & Virginie Villa and Black River National Park Floreale Women's Centre
August	-Inmates along with some committee members and staff participated in an outing organized by the Managing Committee -Inmates celebrated Assumption Festival	Pamplemousses Botanical Garden, Grand Bay Centre and La Cuvette Public Beach Probation Home
November	-Inmates attended Aerobic sessions	Floreale Women Centre
December	-Inmates, the staff & committee members celebrated the End of Year Party Inmates participated in a Christmas activity organized by the Guides of Ste Therese Inmates along with houseparents and the Warden went for an outing organized by the Probation Home	Probation Home Probation Home Le Waterpark Leisure Village & Belle Mare Plage

8. Medical visits

Each month, the residents benefited from medical check-up by Dr Nagalingum. Minor ailments were taken care of at the Curepipe dispensary and dental clinic whereas major health problems were treated in hospitals. In cases where residents had psychological / behavioural problems, they were referred and accompanied to the Psychologist and Psychiatrist of the Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre.

9. Miscellaneous

(i) Mushroom Project

About 5.5 Kgs of mushrooms were harvested during the year. The total sales amounted to Rs.471.00. The cultivation was temporarily halted owing to destruction of mushrooms by rats.

(ii) Group Conference

The Chairperson, Mrs Baguant, along with the Probation staff, on a monthly basis, carried out working sessions with all the housemothers and the inmates with a view to discussing problems encountered by them and finding ways to deal with them.

(iii) Conduct Monitoring Meeting

The Chairperson, the Secretary and the Warden carried out meetings with inmates on a monthly basis. Inmates were regularly counselled as regards their progress and deficiencies. They were also shown ways to develop a sense of discipline and were motivated to make genuine effort in their rehabilitation.

10. Visits

On 30.4.08, delegates from the Seychelles Supreme Court visited the institution. The Chairperson, the Secretary, the Warden, Mrs D. Pudaruth, Assistant Commissioner, Mr N. Fareed, Ag. Principal Probation Officer and Ms. N. Chackhoor, Probation Officer were present on that occasion.

On 4.7.08, students from the University of Mauritius, who were on placement at the Probation and Aftercare Service, visited the Probation Home. The Chairperson, the Secretary and the Warden briefed them about the rules, regulations and functioning of the institution. They were given the opportunity to interact with the inmates.

In May 2008, a regional Consultant of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ms. Sarah Simons, visited the Probation Home so as to collect data and information on the situation of, and national responses to human trafficking in the Eastern African regions. The Commissioner and the Secretary briefed her about the services offered by the Probation and Aftercare Service and about the existing legal provisions.

On 25.9.08, a meeting was organized at the Probation Home to discuss laws regarding Probation Institutions with two representatives of the Law Reforms Commission, Mr Rosario Domaingue and Mrs O. Lim Tung. Were present: The Chairperson, Mrs. S. Baguant, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr M. Maudarbux, the Assistant Commissioner, Mrs D. Pudaruth, the Secretary, the Warden and Ag. Principal Probation Officer, Mr N. Fareed.

During the year 2008 the Probation Home for Girls had, amongst others, the following visitors:

1. The Commissioner of the Probation and Aftercare Service
2. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security
3. Parents and relatives of inmates
4. Ex-inmates
5. Members of the Benevolent Society of Queen Elizabeth College
6. Staff of the Probation Service
7. Representatives of ANPCCAN
8. Members of the Managing Committee

11. Donations and Acknowledgements

The Probation Home for Girls was thankful to those who made donations and for their interest in the welfare of the residents.

12. THE SUICIDE PREVENTION UNIT

The Suicide Prevention Unit, formerly known as the “We Care for You Unit” was set up in February 1990 with a twin purpose: to prevent the problem of suicide in Mauritius and to restrain the problems of those having suicidal tendencies.

The Unit functions within the Probation and Aftercare Service under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions. During the year 2008, the Unit was staffed by a Principal Probation Officer and five Senior Probation Officers on a roster basis. One Psychologist also attended the Unit on a part time basis. A hotline with an easy recall 3 digit number (188) became operational on a twenty-four basis as from February 2008.

The Unit functions with the following main objectives:

- (i) To provide supportive counselling to clients with psychosocial problems having suicidal tendencies and to surviving family members or friends of those who died due to suicide.
- (ii) To work in collaboration with other Governmental organizations and the community with an aim to prevent suicide.
- (iii) To sensitise the public in general through media support on the problem of suicide.

During the year 2008, 52 preventive talks were delivered in secondary schools and in seminars organized by the Ministry of Youth & Sports.

Other activities by the Suicide Prevention Unit during 2008

1. On 1.7.08 a pre recorded radio programme on Suicide Prevention in Hindi was aired on MBC RM I where Mr H. Ramgobin was the guest of Mrs Madhu Gujadhur in “Ghar Sansaar”.
2. On 27.7.08 Mr R. Boojhawon participated in an MBC Programme on Suicide in Bhojpuri.
3. On 10.9.08 Mr R. Boojhawon participated in ‘Hard Talk’ programme of Top FM on Suicide Prevention.
4. On 13.09.08, Mrs H. Luckeenarain participated in a live radio programme, MBC Peak Time, on Suicide Prevention.

During the year 2008, the Unit's Hotline received a total number of 126 calls. Many of these calls were anonymous. Many callers, who were requested to attend the Suicide Prevention Unit at a later stage, did not turn up following their conversation with the officers attending the hotline service.

Most of those who attended the Suicide Prevention Unit were seen by the Psychologist. Difficult cases were referred to the Brown Sequard Hospital for medical follow-up. Cases seen by the Psychologist have been separately categorized as 'New Cases' and 'Follow up' cases as shown in the following two tables:

Table 1

New Cases dealt with by the Psychologist at the Suicide Prevention Unit during the year

NATURE OF PROBLEMS	AM	AF	JM	JF	TOTAL
Depression	10	7	5	4	26
Family disputes	1	1	-	1	3
Marital conflicts	10	2	-	-	12
Suicidal tendencies	-	2	1	3	6
Child beyond control	-	-	7	9	16
Traumatized (Death of parents)	-	-	-	2	2
Traumatized (Rape)	-	-	-	1	1
Total	21	12	13	20	66

Table 2

Follow-up cases dealt with by the Psychologist at the Suicide Prevention Unit during the year

NATURE OF PROBLEMS	AM	AF	JM	JF	TOTAL
Depression	1	10	2	3	16
Family disputes	1	-	-	2	3
Marital conflicts	7	12	-	-	19
Suicidal tendencies	-	-	-	-	-
Child beyond control	-	-	8	3	11
Traumatized (Death of parents)	-	-	-	2	2
Traumatized (Rape)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	22	10	10	51

A total number of 51 follow-up cases seen by the Psychologist were normally attended to until the improvement of the functioning of the individual.

13. SUPREME COURT CASES

The Probation and Aftercare Service submitted 440 Social Enquiry Reports to the Supreme Court during the year. The enquiries were carried out by Senior Probation Officers. Details of the types of cases are given hereunder:

TYPE	NUMBER
Custody of minor(s)/Provisional custody	161
Right of Visit/Droit d'Hebergement	44
Appeal	1
Adoption Plénière	20
Appointment of Guardian and Sub-Guardian	34
Adoption Simple	54
Rectification in Civil Status Acts	3
Ouverture de la Tutelle	28
Deprivation of parental authority	5
Application for loan from bank	14
Legitimation par adoption	3
Counselling in view of reconciliation	50
Counselling in view of facilitating access to minor	14
Acknowledgement of minor	3
Application for order to allow minors to accompany their father abroad	1
Discharge of order preventing applicant from taking minors abroad	1
Main Levée of majeur-en-tutelle	1
Application to withdraw money from minor's bank account	1
Conduct and livelihood of a Mauritian detainee abroad	1
Application to transfer fixed deposit from one institution to another	1
TOTAL	440

14. CASES FOR THE NATIONAL ADOPTION COUNCIL

The Probation and Aftercare Service enquires into cases of adoption referred by the National Adoption Council since 1988, after the National Adoption Council (NAC) Act was voted in December 1987 (NAC Act No. 21 of 1987). The objectives of the Council are as follows:

- (i) to enquire into all demands for the adoption of minors, children by non-citizens before an application is made to the Judge in Chambers;
- (ii) to advise the Minister on all matters relating to demands specified in paragraph (i); and
- (iii) to coordinate with overseas official agencies engaged in the adoption and welfare of children.

Social Enquiry Reports submitted to the NAC by the Probation and Aftercare Service highlight the following:

- (a) the parents' social and economic situation;
- (b) the role of the intermediary, that is, the link-person between the child's parents and the adoptive parents, how the intermediary has come to know the child to be adopted and his/her contact with the foreign adopting parents - whether there has been financial motive or simply voluntary help behind the intermediary's intervention;
- (c) the enquiring officer's contact with the foreign adopting parents (if present in the country) to know about their attitudes and feelings regarding the adoption of a child.

There were eight meetings of the National Adoption Council during the year and nineteen social enquiry reports were submitted on children to be adopted.

15. PAROLE

The functions of the Parole Board are to make recommendations to the Minister for:

- (a) the release on parole of a convicted detainee who has served not less than one half of his sentence or at least 16 months thereof, whichever expires the later;
- (b) the recall of a detainee released on parole where:
 - (i) the detainee has not complied with a condition of parole, or
 - (ii) where the revocation of parole appears to the Parole Board to be in the interest of the detainee.

The Parole Board for 2008 was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. P. Bissessur

Members: Mrs. D. Chaumoo

Mr. C. Jahangeer

Mr. T. Packiry-Pouille

Dr. G. Gaya

The Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare or Representative

The Commissioner of Police or Representative

The Commissioner of Prisons or Representative

A representative of the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare.

Mr G. Rambojun – **Principal Probation Officer/Secretary**

During period under review, the Board met on eleven occasions and reviewed seventy applications. One social enquiry report on a female detainee was submitted to the Board and she was released on parole.

As per procedure, the Parole Board examined the case history of each prisoner submitted by the Police and his previous convictions and general conduct, submitted by the Prisons authorities. The Probation and Aftercare Service submitted a social enquiry report on the home environment, the family background, the work prospects, the acceptance of the prisoner to be released on parole and the willingness of his homefolks to welcome him. During the course of enquiry the detainee was fully explained the conditions of parole and the consequences on his failure to comply with same. Once released on parole, the parolee remained under the supervision of a Senior Probation Officer until the expiry of his parole licence.

16. THE DISCHARGED PERSONS' AID COMMITTEE

The Discharged Persons' Aid Committee was instituted with a view to helping prisoners integrate fully in society on their release.

The functions of the Discharged Persons' Aid Committee are:

- (a) to interview every detainee, before his discharge, concerning his plans and prospects;
- (b) to use its best endeavours
 - (i) to produce employment for persons who have been discharged;
 - (ii) to persuade a person who has been discharged to live by honest means and provide him with a loan or a reasonable sum of money to that end if the Committee so decides;
 - (iii) to ensure that a person who has been discharged is completely rehabilitated and gets all the assistance he needs to return to civilian life and settle therein as a civilised person.

The Committee met once monthly at the Central Prison, Beau Bassin to interview detainees to be discharged from Prisons and to approve financial and other assistance (tools, blankets). For the period under review, it approved Rs 55,055 as grant-in-aid from government in respect of 906 detainees.

The government annual grant-in-aid to maintain financial assistance to the discharged prisoners amounted to Rs 60,000.

The Committee was constituted as follows:

Mr. R. Manrakhan, P.D.S.M. - *Chairman*

Mr. M. Ramphul, O.B.E.

Mrs D. Purmessur

Mr. S. Seetohul

Mr. R. Chokowree

The Chief Employment Officer or his representative

Mr. V. Tulsi, Representative of Probation and Aftercare Service – *Secretary (up to February 2009)*

Mr. G. Huldarowa Principal Probation Officer (as from March 2009)

17. THE BOARD OF VISITORS

The Probation and Aftercare Service continues to contribute a lot in providing the Boards assigned to the Correctional Youth Centre and the Rehabilitation Youth Centre with social enquiry reports to enable members to take appropriate decisions in cases under consideration with a view to safeguarding the welfare of the inmates.

The Commissioner of Probation and After-care or his representative who is a member on each Board reads out individual reports submitted by the Senior Probation Officers.

The functions of the Boards of Visitors as set out in Section 54 of the Reform Institutions Act 1988 are as follows:

1.
 - (a) meet at least once every month and on such other occasions as the Minister may direct,
 - (b) enquire into the condition of detention of the inmates,
 - (c) hear any complaint which may be made by an inmate and, where the inmate so requests, hear the complaint privately,
 - (d) inquire into and report to the Minister on:-
 - (i) any abuse within an institution;
 - (ii) any repair which may be urgently required in an institution,
 - (iii) any matter which it may consider expedient.
 - (e) do such acts as it may be required to do by the Minister.
2. One member shall visit the institution each month.
3. A member may inspect:-
 - (a) any part of the institution
 - (b) the inmates at work, in hospital or in separate or other rooms or wards
 - (c) all the books, journals and records relating to inmates.
4. The member visiting the institution shall be accompanied by the Officer-in-Charge or in his absence by the Officer most senior in rank.
5. During his visit, the member should see an inmate if the latter has so expressed his wish to the Officer-in-Charge.

6. A Board may ask the Commissioner of Prisons or the Medical Officer any information or report but shall not otherwise interfere in the management of an institution or issue orders to officers.

A. The Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors

The Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors for year 2008 was constituted as follows:

Dr. M. Motah - *Chairman*
Representative of the Probation & Aftercare Service
Representative of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and
Employment
Representative of the Ministry of Youth & Sports
Mr. M. Hattea
Mrs. D. Madelaine
Mr. J. Dussoye
Representative of Roman Catholic Church
Welfare Officer (CYC) – *Secretary*

The Board met on eleven occasions during the year and attended to the following cases:-

Home leave	2
Possible release	4
Convocations	16
Admissions	3
Periodical review	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	<u>26</u>

One inmate was released on aftercare during the year 2008.

B. The Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors

The composition of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors for year 2008 was as follows:

1. Mrs Renouka Brigemohane - *Chairperson*
2. The Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare or Representative
3. The Representative of the Ministry of Youth & Sports
4. The Representative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment
5. Sister Françoise Mestry (up to November 2008)
6. Mr Govinduthsing Raghoonundun
7. Mrs Elena Dassye (until July 2008)
8. Mr Saleem Peerbaccosse
9. Mr Renganaden Veeramootoo
10. Mrs Sabeet Kalasopaten (as from August 2008)
11. Sister M. A. Juliette (as from December 2008)
12. Welfare Officer (Rehabilitation Youth Centre) Secretary

Monthly meetings were held during the year and the Probation and Aftercare Service submitted 75 Social Enquiry Reports to the Board as follows:

Consideration	: 13
Week end leave	: 5
Progress	: 56
Consideration for visit	: <u>1</u>
Total	<u>75</u>

18. PREVENTIVE WORK

(a) The Pre-Release Scheme in Prisons

The Pre-Release Scheme was set up by the Prisons Service in 1990 to meet a long-felt need to prepare detainees shortly before their discharge from prisons. It was run with the collaboration of various social services and agencies. The Probation and Aftercare Service continued to participate in the Scheme and gave a series of talks throughout the year in the four penal institutions, namely: Central Prisons, Women Prison, Richelieu Open Prison and Petit Verger Prison. The talks were mainly given by Principal Probation Officers on the topic “Probation and Aftercare Service as a helping agency” as follows:

Date	Officer	Venue
24.04.08	Mr S. Oomar Principal Probation Officer	Central Prison, Beau Bassin
06.05.08	Mrs A. Lee Kien On Principal Probation Officer	Women Prison, Beau Bassin
13.05.08	Mr F. Moideen Principal Probation Officer	Richelieu Open Prison

(b) Preventive Work

Throughout the year 2008, eighty-nine (89) preventive works in form of talks and lectures were carried out in schools, colleges and Social Welfare Centres over the island by officers at regional level. Students from some primary schools, secondary schools of Zone 1 to Zone 4, Medco schools and private aided secondary schools benefited from these exposés and responded positively by engaging themselves in the session of “question and answer” following the talks. It was noticed that even school teachers participated fully in the activities and encouraged the students, who are in their critical stage of adolescence, to share their ideas and to enlighten their inquisitive minds. The following topics were brought to the audiences:

- Juvenile delinquency
- Causes and ill-effects of substance abuse and smoking
- The role of the Probation Officer in the family and the community
- Critical phases of adolescence
- Problems facing growth and risky behaviour
- Peer group pressure
- Impact of media on youth
- Interpersonal relationship in the family

In Social Welfare Centres the target group was mainly adults, elderly people and parents, who had been sensitized about their role in the family and the community at large towards bringing up law-abiding and honest citizens.

19. IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Training was held regularly for the Probation staff during the year as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Officer</u>
13.03.08 & 20.03.08	Suicide Prevention	Mr H. Ramgobin
02.04.08 & 23.04.08	Custody & Access guidelines on report writing	Mr G. Rambojun
10.04.08, 17.04.08 & 24.04.08	Legal aspects/Social Enquiry Reports for Juveniles	Mr K. Kora Venciah & Mr N. Fareed
8.05.08, 15.05.08 & 22.05.08	Social Enquiry Reports for Juveniles	Mr K. Kora Venciah & Mr N. Fareed
5.06.08 & 12.06.08	Symptoms of Psychiatric Illness	Dr. A. Soreefan, Consultant/Psychiatrist
26.06.08	Social Enquiry Reports on Minors Subject to Harm	Mr K. Kora Venciah & Mr N. Fareed
9.10.08	Status Offences	Mr K. Kora Venciah & Mr N. Fareed

20. THE RECORD AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Record and Research Unit of the Probation and Aftercare Service was set up to monitor almost every aspect of the work done by Senior Probation Officers and Probation Officers at regional levels.

The Unit received monthly returns of each Court Area which indicated the volume of work done by each officer during a month. The statistics and information submitted were compiled. The clearing out of discrepancies in the returns was a delicate exercise as officers concerned had to be contacted individually, for bringing about the necessary adjustments.

The monthly statistics and information were then used by the Unit to prepare monthly reports for the Service and for the Ministry. The Report covered the following items:

- Part I**
 - Staff
 - Staff on Establishment both in Mauritius and Rodrigues
 - Staff movements
 - Any particular event relating to member(s) of staff such as promotion, training, retirement, etc..

- Part II**
 - Social Enquiry
 - Submission of social enquiry reports to institutions such as the Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court, the District Courts, the Correctional/Rehabilitation Youth Centres, the Probation Hostel/Home, the National Children's Council, the National Adoption Council, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the International Social Service, Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy, etc.

- Part III**
 - Supervision of Offenders
Probationers, Aftercare cases, Throughcare cases, Parolees and Community Service workers

- Part IV**
 - Counselling
Number/Types of Counselling cases attended to.

- Part V**
 - Institutional Care

Monthly activities of the Probation Hostel/Home.
The Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors
The Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors
The Discharged Persons' Aid Committee of the Prisons Service.
The Parole Board

Part VI

- Preventive Work
- The "Suicide Prevention Unit" which attended to cases who were suicide-prone or who attempted suicide and support service to relatives of suicide victims.
- Talks, Seminars, Workshops, etc

Part VII

- Miscellaneous
- Poor Box Fund Statement
- Officers who represented the Service on various Committees.

Appendices relating to workload of Senior Probation Officers and Probation Officers.

The Unit also had the responsibility of going through the expired files and through copies of social enquiry reports submitted to Courts during each month. Comments and criticisms were made on the supervisory aspect of cases and on certain discrepancies and omissions in social enquiry reports. During staff meetings, the Unit highlighted deficiencies and weaknesses on both items.

21. CONCLUSION

The Probation and Aftercare Service, as a social agency, provided timely and quality services to the Judiciary as well as to other agencies such as the National Adoption Council, Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy, the International Social Service, etc.

During the year 2008, a total of 3707 social enquiries were carried out for the various institutions such as the Supreme Court, Intermediate Court, District Courts, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the National Adoption Council, the Prime Minister's Office, the Board of Visitors of Youth Centres.

Counselling in matrimonial and other social problems continued to be an important part of the Probation Officer's daily duties. A total of 4382 cases were attended to during the year.

317 Community Service Orders were made by the Intermediate and District Courts whereas 365 Probation Orders were made. The total number of persons on probation during the year was 967 and 454 on Community Service.

The Service also continued its aggressive Preventive Campaign in colleges, social welfare centres and youth centres on social problems with a view to reducing criminality and suicide.

S. R. Montille
Commissioner