

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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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 goodwill 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’.

On 19 July 2002, the Community Service Order Act was passed and was proclaimed on 18th 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.

On 12 May 2009 the Community Service Order Amendment Act was passed by the National Assembly and was proclaimed on 1 August 2009.

On 16 June 2009 the Probation of Offenders Amendment Act was passed by the National Assembly.

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 at the reduction of crime and protection of the public.
- Assisting families in conflict and safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Aiming at keeping the suicide rate below international accepted 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 that they are using them which 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 proofread 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 offenders, 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, 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 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 30 October 2009.

(B) The District Probation Committees

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 2009, the District Probation Committees were held in each District Court Area as indicated below:

<u>Court Area</u>	<u>Date</u>
Port Louis	13.08.09 & 15.12.09
Rose-Hill	29.09.09
Curepipe	11.09.09 & 18.12.09
Black River	24.06.09 & 09.12.09
Savanne	18.09.09
Moka	29.06.09 & 16.12.09
Flacq	13.08.09
Pamplemousses	19.08.09
Rivière du Rempart	Nil
Grand Port	06.07.09 & 02.12.09
Rodrigues	25.03.09

7. STAFF

(i) Establishment (Mauritius)

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

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

However, at the end of 2009, the Service was functioning with the following staff:-

1	Commissioner - Mr. S.R.Montille
1	Deputy Commissioner - Mr. M.Maudarbux
3	Assistant Commissioners - Mesdames H. Luckeenarain, D. Pudaruth And Mr. F. Moideen (Temporary)
10	Principal Probation Officers
-	Mr G. Huldarowa
-	Mrs G. Petkar
-	Mrs A.Lee Kien On
-	Mr H. Ramgobin
-	Miss L. Beeharry
-	Mr G. Rambojun
-	Mrs A. Toorbuth
-	Mr K. Kora Venciah
-	Mr M.S. Oomar
-	Mr N. Fareed
1	Acting Principal Probation Officer:
-	Mrs K.V. Bundhoo
15	Senior Probation Officers
2	Acting Senior Probation Officers
24	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 2009, the Service in Rodrigues was fully staffed.

(iii) **Vacancies**

At the end of 2009, the following vacancies existed:

10 Probation Officers

(iv) **Resumption of duty**

Mrs G. Cowreea-Petkar, Principal Probation Officer, who was on leave without pay, resumed duty on 1.09.2009.

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

Mrs K.R. Pillay, Principal Probation Officer, who proceeded on leave on 22.10.07, was still on leave without pay.

(vi) **Appointment**

- (a) Mr F. Moideen was appointed Temporary Assistant Commissioner as from 25 September 2009.
- (b) Mr S. Omar and Mr N. Fareed received their letter of promotion as Principal Probation Officer on 12 January 2009 with effect from 1 July 2008.
- (c) Mrs O.D. Ramoutar and Mr L. Gungaram received their letter of promotion as Senior Probation Officer on 12 January 2009 with effect from 1 July 2008 and 1 September 2008 respectively.

(vii) **Recruitment**

Mrs Jassodah Domur, Clinical Psychologist joined the Service on 18 December 2009.

8. WORKLOAD

(A) Enquiries

During the year under review, the number of cases investigated and reported upon totalled 3371 as compared with 3707 for the year 2008.

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	303
Intermediate Court	203
District Courts	958
Director of Public Prosecutions	1358
Parole Board	5
Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors	51
Correctional Youth Centre Board of Visitors	1
Throughcare Service (R.Y.C, Probation Home/Hostel)	379
SACIM	4
National Adoption Council	11
International Social Service	3
Child Development Unit	25
Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy	28
Prime Minister's Office (Home Study Report)	18
Commission of Women's Affairs (Rodrigues)	1
Probation Hostel/Home Managing Committee	10
Ministry of Social Security	1
Progress Reports (Community Service)	10
Ombudsperson for Children	1
Fishermen Welfare Fund	1
TOTAL	3371

(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 not authorised. During the year under review 100 minors (88 boys and 12 girls) were convicted of criminal offences as compared with 64 (55 boys and 9 girls) in 2008. Of these, 71 minors (68 boys and 3 girls) were placed on probation, 5 male minors benefited from Community Service Orders, 4 male minors were committed to the Correctional Youth Centre, 4 male minors and 3 female minors were committed to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, 3 male minors were sent to the Probation Hostel for Boys, 6 female minors were sent to the Probation Home for Girls and 4 male minors were given conditional discharge.

(ii) **Probation Orders**

During the year under review, a total of 577 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	21	-	-	-	21
Port Louis	-	-	1	-	1
Rose-Hill	115	45	27	2	189
Curepipe	10	2	3	-	15
Black River	18	3	1	-	22
Savanne	76	15	4	-	95
Moka	6	3	2	-	11
Flacq	5	-	-	-	5
Pamplemousses	48	2	10	-	60
Rivière du Rempart	58	2	8	-	68
Grand Port	41	7	6	-	54
Rodrigues	19	1	15	1	36
Total	417	80	77	3	577

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

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
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
2009	417	80	77	3	577

The total number of probation orders in force as at 31 December 2009 was 820 as compared with 646 at the corresponding date in 2008. The number of probationers under supervision at the end of 2009 was 742 as compared with 592 as at 31 December 2008.

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.

Appendix II (c) shows offences committed areawise by minors for which probation orders were made.

The total number of probationers supervised during the year was 1121 as compared with 967 for the previous year while the number of probation orders in force during 2009 was 1221 as compared with 1046 for 2008.

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	71	4	7	-	82
Port Louis	6	1	4	-	11
Rose Hill	161	44	27	2	234
Curepipe	21	4	4	-	29
Black River	46	6	4	-	56
Savanne	129	21	8	1	159
Moka	19	3	6	-	28
Flacq	14	3	8	1	26
Pamplemousses	69	2	12	-	83
Riv. du Rempart	156	14	12	1	183
Grand Port	126	13	14	-	153
Rodrigues	53	6	17	1	77
TOTAL	871	121	123	6	1121

(iii) Age-Group Distribution

Hereunder is the age-group distribution of offenders placed on probation during the year 2009.

MINORS

AGE GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Up to 10 years	-	-	-
11 years	1	-	1
12 years	3	-	3
13 years	4	-	4
14 years	-	-	-
15 years	10	-	10
16 years	27	1	28
17 years	32	2	34
TOTAL	77	3	80

ADULTS

AGE GROUP	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
18-22 years	139	31	170
23-27 years	72	17	89
28-32 years	66	10	76
33-37 years	32	3	35
38-42 years	39	8	47
43-47 years	26	7	33
48-52 years	14	1	15
53-57 years	15	2	17
58 and above	14	1	15
TOTAL	417	80	497

(iv) **Successful and Unsuccessful Cases**

A total number of 372 probationers successfully completed their respective periods of probation during 2009.

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

Type	SUCCESSFUL						UNSUCCESSFUL					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Men	464	337	290	290	276	301	-	-	1	1	2	7
Women	43	43	31	37	38	43	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boys	82	52	59	76	41	28	-	-	-	-	-	2
Girls	11	1	7	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	600	433	387	405	359	372	1	-	1	1	2	9

(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 2009, a total of 33 female minors (22 from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre, 11 girls from the Probation Home) and 23 male minors comprising 14 from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and 9 from the Probation Hostel were attended to as through care cases.

As at 31 December 2009, there were 4 boys and 7 girls placed on throughcare at the Probation Institutions and 8 boys and 17 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 2009, 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 2009, 2 cases from the Correctional Youth Centre, 5 cases (3 boys and 2 girls) from the Rehabilitation Youth Centre and 2 parolees (1 male and 1 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 2009

COURT AREA	NO. OF COUNSELLING CASES
Port Louis	362
Rose Hill	394
Curepipe	395
Black River	953
Savanne	449
Moka	91
Flacq	112
Pamplemousses	289
Riv. du Rempart	268
Grand Port	620
Rodrigues	107
TOTAL	4040

The table at *Appendix III* indicates the breakdown of Counselling Cases dealt with per Court Area during 2009.

9. THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER

The Community Service Order Act (No. 17 of 2002) was enacted by Parliament on 19 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 fine defaulters.

As per the Community Service Order (Amendment) Act proclaimed on 1 August 2009, the amendments made provision for:

- (i) the suspension of a sentence of imprisonment passed on a minor aged 16 years and above, and make him the subject of a Community Service Order.
- (ii) raising the amount of unpaid fine for which the making of a Community Service Order can be considered, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000.
- (iii) uniformity in the calculation of the period of community service.
- (iv) the extension of the period within which a Community Service Order can come into operation, from 10 to 45 days, to facilitate team community placement.
- (v) community service workers to be subjected to counselling and receiving visits at their place of residence from community service officers.
- (vi) mandatory submission of periodical reports on convicted persons by community service officers.
- (vii) simplifying procedures for breach of Community Service Order.
- (viii) increasing the fine from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 in respect of persons subjected to Community Service Order who have been fined for breach of any of the conditions to the same order.

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 2009, a total of 388 cases were referred for social enquiry by courts as indicated below:-

Court	No. of Cases			
	Men	Women	Boys	Total
Intermediate	119	34	1	154
Port Louis	12	-	-	12
Rose Hill	44	3	1	48
Curepipe	26	4	-	30
Black River	-	-	-	-
Savanne	28	-	-	28
Moka	13	3	-	16
Flacq	23	-	-	23
Pamplemousses	3	-	-	3
Riv. du Rempart	-	-	-	-
Grand Port	22	1	-	23
Rodrigues	37	1	13	51
TOTAL	327	46	15	388

312 Community Service Orders (including 35 additional orders for men, 1 for women and 2 for boys) were made by the following courts:

Court	Orders			
	Men	Women	Boys	Total
Intermediate	98	30	1	129
Port Louis	11	-	-	11
Rose Hill	25	2	1	28
Curepipe	20	1	-	21
Black River	-	-	-	-
Savanne	24	-	-	24
Moka	10	2	-	12
Flacq	20	-	-	20
Pamplemousses	3	-	-	3
Riv. du Rempart	-	-	-	-
Grand Port	14	1	-	15
Rodrigues	43	1	5	49
TOTAL	268	37	7	312

The number of persons who were subjected to Community Service work in 2009 was 274 comprising 233 men, 36 women and 5 boys. As at 31.12.2009, there were 241 persons (222 men, 16 women and 3 boys) under supervision. Work placement for the 274 community service workers was as follows:

(i)	Government Organizations	:	203
	Police Department	:	148
	Probation and Aftercare Service	:	6
	District Courts	:	29
	Social Welfare Centres	:	16
	Hospital-Rodrigues	:	4
(ii)	Parastatal Organizations	:	26
	SILWF	:	18
	Community Centres (Rodrigues)	:	8
(iii)	Non-Government Organizations	:	45
	Ashram/Home	:	14
	Church/Mosque/Mandir	:	17
	Drug Rehabilitation Centres	:	5
	Lois Lagesse Trust Fund	:	4
	Rodrigues Council for Social Services	:	2
	Fellowship First Aiders	:	2
	Human Service Trust	:	1

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

10. 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 Houseparents, takes care of the residents. Assistant Houseparents 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 2009:

Chairperson	: Mr D. Jooty
Vice-Chairperson	: Sir P. Simonet – <i>C.B.E</i>
Treasurer	: Mr R. Soobah
Assistant Treasurer	: Mr J.D. Tannoo

- 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 B. Ramsohok
 : Mr P. Mautadin
 : Secretary/ Principal Probation Officer

4. **Staff**

During the year 2009, the staff was as follows:

Mrs. K.V. Bundhoo	-	Secretary/Ag.Principal Probation Officer
Mr. N. Ramasawmy	-	Warden/Senior Probation Officer (Jan 09)
Mr D. Thumiah	-	Warden/Probation Officer (Feb 09 to Sep 09)
Mr J. Seegolam	-	Warden/Senior Probation Officer (as from Oct 09)
Mr. L.G. Pompeya	-	Housefather (Jan 09 to June 09)
Mr S. Jadoo	-	Housefather (July 09 to Dec 09)
Mrs. V.N.Pompeya	-	Housemother (Jan 09 to June 09)
Mrs S. Jadoo	-	Housemother (July 09 to Dec 09)
Mrs. S. Allyjaun	-	Word Processing Operator
Mr. K. Chooramun	-	Assistant Housefather
Mr. B. Nemchand	-	Assistant Housefather

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 on a part time basis.

5. **Finance**

(a) **Income**

In May 2009 an amount of Rs100, 000, as additional grant, was received for the financial year 2008/2009.

In July 2009 an amount of Rs450,000 was received as grant for the financial year July 2009 - December 2009.

(b) **Expenditure**

The total expenses during the year amounted to Rs830,859.08.

(c) Bank Account as at 31.12.09:

Savings Account with Cheque Book (as per Cash Book): Rs30,831.65.

6. **Residents on roll, Admissions and Discharges**

During the year, three boys were admitted to the institution and four were discharged.

One boy was sentenced to the Correctional Youth Centre for a period of one year on 7.4.09 as he had absconded from the Probation Hostel.

7. **Activities**

(a) **General**

- (i) The residents over 16 years were encouraged to work outside the Hostel in apprenticeship. The others were sent to private school 'L'Esperance 2000' while one attended Presidency College, Curepipe.
- (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) Miss J. Casse, Art Teacher, conducted Art classes for the residents once weekly.
- (v) Officers from the Probation staff had football training with the residents once weekly from 3.00 p.m to 6.00 p.m.
- (vi) On 19.2.09, the Warden attended a Launching Ceremony of an ICT programme organised by the Ministry of Youth & Sports at the Rehabilitation Youth Centre Complex, Beau Bassin. One computer and one football were received from the Ministry of Youth & Sports on donation.
- (vii) On 13.3.09, on the occasion of the Republic Day, the acting Chairman, Mr D. Jooty and a few committee members attended the Flag Raising Ceremony as well as the staff of the Probation Hostel for Boys, Curepipe Probation Office and the residents.
- (viii) On 12.3.09, three members of "Legion de Marie", a socio-religious group called in to talk to the boys about the "Chemin de La Croix".
- (ix) On 14.6.09, the residents attended the show "Sleeping Beauty" at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. The outing was organised by Esperance 2000.
- (x) On 23.7.09, ASP Ramsurrun and PC Guptur of Curepipe Police Station, delivered a talk on "Human Values, discipline, consequences of bad behaviour and penalties provided by law".

- (xi) Social workers from Dr I. Goomany Centre delivered a talk on “Health hazards relating to tobacco smoking” to the residents on 30.9.09.
- (xii) On 3.10.09, the residents accompanied by the Houseparents attended the Gandhian Activity organised by the Anti Violence Support Organisation of Quatre Bornes.
- (xiii) On 24.11.09 and 1.12.09, Mrs S. Achille, Youth Educator from Action Familiale delivered talks on ‘Education a la Vie Familiale’.
- (xiv) Four students from the University of Mauritius, on placement at the Probation and Aftercare Service visited the Hostel.
- (xv) The residents participated in an Art Competition organised by Emtel on the theme “Transport in Mauritius in the past”.
- (xvi) During November/December school holidays, Mrs Ip Yam, yoga teacher, gave the boys yoga training on a voluntary basis on Thursdays.
- (xvii) The residents were initiated to IT at the Floreal Youth Centre during school holidays.
- (xviii) The staff of the Hostel coached the residents in their studies after school hours and during school holidays.

(b) Leisure activities and outings

- (i) Leisure activities, both indoor and outdoor, were scheduled on a regular basis. The indoor activities included, amongst others, carrom, dominoes, lexicon and television programmes. As outdoor games, they played football, badminton and basketball.
- (ii) On 24.4.09, the residents attended the annual activity organised by the Lion’s Club of Curepipe, held at Sir Pierre Simonet’s residence.

(c) Talks delivered and outings organised by Regional Probation Offices

Offices	Outings	Talks
Savanne	30.1.09 – Mare aux Vacoas, Bassin Blanc, La Cambuse & Pointe aux Roches public beach	20.1.09 – Peer Relationship (Mrs Jondah)
Curepipe	28.2.09 – Grand Bassin and Le Morne public beach	19.6.09 – Sexuality (Mesdames M.J. Rambaree & H. Gopee)
Rivière du Rempart	25.4.09 – Bassin Boeuf public beach	9.6.09 – Coping with stress (Mr V. Chengadu)

Black River	23.5.09 – Tamarin Cheshire Home, Riambel, Rochester Falls and Rivière des Galets public beach	9.4.09 – Conflict Management (Mr N. Heeroo)
Grand Port	10.10.09 – Le Bouchon and La Cambuse	5.8.09 – Family and Social Bonding (Mrs S. Baboolall)
Flacq	31.10.09 – Sir S. Ramgoolam Memorial Park & Belle Mare public beach	21.7.09 – Discipline (Mrs J. Seepersand)
Moka	14.11.09 – La Nicolière Reservoir & Mont Choisy public beach	27.5.09 – Juvenile Delinquency (Miss A. Seetohul)
Rose-Hill	21.11.09 – Mauritius Post Museum & Pereybere public beach	18.3.09 – Handling of daily problems by juvenile (Mr N. Ramasawmy)
Pamplemousses	4.12.09 – L’Aventure du Sucre & Krishnanand Sewa Ashram	13.2.09 – Hygiene (Mr L. Gangaram)
Port Louis	19.12.09 – Le Dauguet Health Track and watched film “Lucky Luke” at Star Cinema	17.9.09 – Healthy eating (Mrs S. Taposeea and Mr L. Singar)
Suicide Prevention Unit		21.2.09 – Moral values (Mr R. Boojhawon)

(d) Medical Coverage

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

(e) Home Leave

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

(f) Counselling Sessions

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

(g) Community Service Order

During the year, nine (9) Community Service workers did community work at the institution as per the Schedule of work indicated in their respective Community Service Order.

(h) Repairs and Maintenance

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure carried out general repairs at the Hostel and also changed all the water pipes. Mr A. Lotun, technical Engineer from Ministry of Public Infrastructure called at the Hostel to conduct a survey regarding renovation works at the Hostel.

(i) Visits

During the year 2009 the Probation Hostel for Boys received visits from:

The Staff of the Probation and Aftercare Service, members of the Managing Committee and parents of residents.

(j) Donations and Acknowledgements

The Hostel expressed its heartfelt thanks to those who offered gifts to the residents and made donations to the institution and for their genuine 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 2009 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. Boodhram
	: Mrs M.C. Monty
	: Mrs F. Rungasamy
Secretary	: Principal Probation Officer

4. Staff

1. Principal Probation Officer/Secretary: Mr. K. Kora Venciah until 5.8.2009 followed by Mr Boojhawon and Mrs A. Lee Kien On in August and Mrs G. Cowreea-Petkar as from September 2009.
2. Probation Officer/Warden: Mrs R.D. Heeraman in January, Miss N. Chackhoor (from February to September 2009), Mrs A. Valayden (from October to December 2009).
3. Supportive staff : Mrs S. Jondah until July 2009
: Mrs H. Gopee until September 2009
: Miss N. Chackhoor as from September 2009
4. Houseparents: Mr. & Mrs. Ramdewor
5. Assistant Housemothers on night duties: Mrs. N. Roopun, Mrs. D. Essoo, Mrs M. Lascar, Mrs M. Ramnarain and Mrs D. Seeruttun as from October 2009.

6. Gardener: Mr M. Khodabux

5. Finance

(a) Income

The Probation Home for Girls financed its activities by grant of Rs475,000 from the Government for the financial year January 2009 - June 2009. For July 2009 - December 2009, the grant was increased to Rs500,000.

(b) Expenditure

The total amount of expenditure from January 2009 to December 2009 was Rs1,034,880.20. Dhanjee Associates audited the Accounts of the Probation Home for Girls.

6. Admissions, Discharges and Roll

During the year 2009, there were six admissions and three girls were discharged from the institution. In April, one inmate was sent to the Rehabilitation Youth Centre following a variation of the committal order.

At the end of the year, there were seven girls on roll.

7. Major Activities

(a) Training/Daily Activities/Leisure

(i) Education

Inmates were coached by a Community Service Worker – Mr Veerapen until completion of his service on 31 January 2009. Thereafter, inmates were offered private tuition in academic subjects and in handicrafts by Mr and Mrs Carpooran respectively.

As mainstream students, two inmates attended Ambassador College and one was in Form II at Notre Dame College.

Of the remaining inmates, four had received basic and primary education at Ste Theresa Ball Centre and one was enrolled in the pre-vocational section at Notre Dame College.

One inmate attended cookery classes at Mrs Anseline's residence on a weekly basis. Moreover, she, together with the housemother benefited from sewing, embroidery, painting and beauty courses at the Youth Centre and Women Centre of Floreal.

(ii) Courses attended by inmates

As from the last week of November, Mrs Poornima Muthy and Mrs Poornima Bhugoo, Yoga instructors, conducted yoga classes with inmates every Thursday.

Besides, during the months of November and December, inmates, accompanied by the housemother, attended creativity courses at the Women Centre of Floreal on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Moreover, from 11.12.2009 to 13.12.2009, inmates attended meditation sessions at 'Art of Living Centre' at Wooton.

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

<i>Offices</i>	<i>Outings</i>	<i>Talks Topics</i>
Suicide Prevention Unit	-	Managing Life Problems 17.4.09 (Mr H. Ramgobin)
Moka	Melrose Botanical Garden & Belle Mare Plage 1.8.09	Social relationships and skills 11.9.09 (Ms. A. Seetohul)
Port Louis	Lunch at Flic-en-Flac 28.12.09	Coping with life stress 25.7.09 (Mrs N. Chundunsing and Mr I. Dhannoo)
Curepipe	Mare aux Vacoas, Grand Bassin, Alexandra Falls, La Preneuse Beach (7.11.09)	Adolescence and sexuality 1.10.09 (Mrs H. Gopee and Mrs M. Rambaree)
Black River	Black River Nature Park, Flic-en-Flac 11.7.09	Conflict Management 9.4.09 (Mr S. Oomar, Mr N. Heeroo and Ms. C. Beeharry)

Grand Port	-	Impulse Management 6.11.09 (Mrs B. Vencatasamy)
Pamplemousses	Gandhi Ashram, Pereybère Beach 11.4.09	Positive Thinking 31.7.09 (Mrs S. Ramgolam)
Savanne	-	Philosophy of Probation 13.11.09 (Mrs S. Jondah)
Rivière du Rempart	La Cave Madame, Roche Noires and Poste la Fayette 12.12.09	Personal Growth and autonomy 21.7.09 (Mrs J. Cesar and Ms. R. Nazurally)
Flacq	ISKCON Ashram & Belle Mare Plage 19.9.09	Importance of Education 21.5.09 (Ms. U. Seenauth)
Rose Hill	-	Life Objectives & Problems faced by Juveniles 25.2.09 (Mr N. Ramasawmy)

(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, indoor games, television and video viewing at specific times, listening to music and performance of dances.

Inmates occasionally accompanied the staff out for shopping. Those having families were allowed to proceed on weekend leave once a month.

(b) Other activities during the year 2009

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Place held</u>
March	National Day Celebration	Probation Home
April	Workshop on “Teenage Pregnancy”	SOS Village
	On occasion of Easter festival:	
	(i) Attended mass	Ste Therese Church
	(ii) Warden & Houseparents organised tea party, sharing chocolates, a chocolate easter cake, easter eggs, snacks and cakes	Probation Home
	(iii) Inmates were invited for lunch	Mrs Baudot’s residence
May	Birthday celebration of one inmate	Probation Home
	Participated in function organised by Lion’s Club	Sir Pierre Simonet Garden
June	Participated in a function organised by Ministry of Youth & Sports	Flic-en-Flac
July	Attended mass	Ste Therese Church
	Two inmates participated in Annual Sports Day	Flacq
	Two inmates were taken for “retraite” from 27.7.09 to 28.7.09	Loreto Convent Church, Curepipe
August	On occasion of Assumption Day	
	(1) inmates attended mass	Ste Therese Church
	(2) explanation of the meaning of Assumption Day by Mrs Carpooran who Prepared a cake for them	Probation Home
September	Prayer	Tombeau of Père Laval at Ste Croix

October	Attended a programme organised by the Antiviolence Support Organisation to commemorate the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi	Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre at Phoenix
	Attended exhibition on science engineering and technology organised by the Ministry of Industry, Science and Research	Swami Vivekananda Conventional Centre of Pailles
	Had a session of prayer with Mrs Couronne of “Legion de Marie”	Probation Home
December	‘Art of Living’ members invited inmates to End of year party and on that occasion they Were given Christmas gifts	Art of Living Centre at Wooton
	Lunch was offered to inmates by the staff of the Probation Home and the Chairperson	Probation Home
	Went for hairdressing on occasion of Christmas (Sponsored by PPO, Mr K. Kora Venciah)	Annick Hairstyle, Curepipe
	Watched the film “2012” (Sponsored by Vice Chairperson, Mrs Menon)	At Star Theatre, Forest Side

8. Medical visits

Each month, the residents benefited from medical check-up by Dr Nagalingum and Dr Raymode, medical practitioners of Curepipe Area Health Centre. Minor ailments were taken care of at the Area Health Centre whereas major health problems were treated at Victoria Hospital. Some inmates were referred and accompanied to the Psychiatrist of the Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre.

9. Miscellaneous

(i) *Mushroom Project*

Of about 2.87 kg of mushrooms which were harvested during the year, 2.23 kg were sold and the rest was used for consumption by inmates. The total sales amounted to Rs.267.00. The cultivation had been temporarily halted owing to destruction of mushrooms by rats.

(ii) *Group Conference*

The Chairperson, Mrs Baguant, along with the Probation staff 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. 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

During the year 2009 the Probation Home for Girls had, amongst others, the following visitors:

1. The Commissioner of the Probation and Aftercare Service
2. Students of University of Mauritius
3. Parents and relatives of inmates
4. Ex-inmates
5. Mrs A. Peeroo, ex- Secretary
6. Staff of the Probation Service
7. Members of ISKCON
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.

11. 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 2009, the Unit was staffed by a Principal Probation Officer, seven Senior Probation Officers and two Psychologists on a roster basis. A hotline with an easy recall 3 digit number (188) was operational on a twenty-four hour basis.

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 2009, 50 preventive talks were delivered in secondary schools, social welfare centres and in a seminar organized by the Ministry of Youth & Sports.

Other activities by the Suicide Prevention Unit during 2009:

1. On 12.4.09, Mr H. Ramgobin participated in a Bhojpuri live radio programme, “Paricharcha” on MBC AM 1 on the theme “Suicide Prevention”.
2. On 10.9.09, during the World Suicide Day Celebration, the document “Implementation of Action Plan on Suicide Prevention” was launched by Hon. Mrs S. Bappoo, Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions. The said plan gave details of continuous and long term intervention to prevent suicide in Mauritius.
3. On 10.11.09, Mr H. Ramgobin participated on a radio programme on “Suicide Prevention” on MBC Cool FM (Creole).
4. **Training and Awareness in Suicide Prevention for Civil Servants**

In November 2009, a training and awareness programme for Civil Servants as per the Implementation of Action Plan on Suicide Prevention of July 2009, was started.

Contacts were established with the Fire Services and a first series of Training and Awareness Programme with officers of Fire Services Department was carried out as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>No. of officers</u>
3.11.09	Coromandel	32
5.11.09	Coromandel	32
6.11.09	St Aubin	30
9.11.09	St Aubin	30
11.11.09	Port Louis	29
12.11.09	Port Louis	29
13.11.09	Triolet	34
16.11.09	Triolet	34

An outline of the programme to enable officers to understand “What is suicide, how it is preventable and how they would respond to suicidal persons at their workplace” is reproduced hereunder:-

OUTLINE

SESSION 1	PART I
	Meaning of Suicide
	Biological, Psychological and Sociological Explanations of Suicide
	Risk Factors in Suicide
	Myths about Suicide
	Facts about Suicide
	PART II
	The Suicidal Person
	Identifying the Suicidal Person
	Warning Signs of Suicide
	The Concept of Resilience in Suicide
SESSION 2	PART I
	Depression and Suicide
	Causes of Depression
	Early Childhood Experiences and Depression
	Treatment of Depression
	PART II
	The Sociological Context of Suicide in Mauritius
	Responding to Suicidal Behaviour
	Role of Fire Services in Suicide and Suicide Prevention
	Collaboration with other Services and Departments

During the year 2009, the Unit's Hotline received a total number of 71 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 Psychologists. Cases seen by the Psychologists 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 Psychologists at the Suicide Prevention Unit during the year

NATURE OF PROBLEMS	AM	AF	JM	JF	TOTAL
Depression	12	11	2	2	27
Family disputes	3	4	1	-	8
Marital conflicts	17	11	-	-	28
Suicidal tendencies	2	1	1	-	4
Child beyond control	-	-	9	2	11
Traumatized (Death of parents)	2	1	2	-	5
Traumatized (Sexual offences)	-	1	2	2	5
Others (Reports for Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy)	5	2	-	-	7
Total	41	31	17	6	95

Table 2

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

NATURE OF PROBLEMS	AM	AF	JM	JF	TOTAL
Depression	10	19	2	1	32
Family disputes	2	2	1	-	5
Marital conflicts	5	5	-	-	10
Suicidal tendencies	-	-	-	4	4
Child beyond control	-	-	11	-	11
Traumatized (Death of parents)	1	-	-	-	1
Traumatized (Sexual offences)	-	-	-	-	-
Others (Reports for Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy)	4	6	-	2	12
Total	22	32	14	7	75

A total number of 75 follow-up cases, seen by the Psychologists were normally attended to until the improvement of the functioning of the individual.

12. CASES FOR THE SUPREME COURT AND SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

The Probation and Aftercare Service submitted 303 Social Enquiry Reports to the Supreme Court and Solicitor General's Office 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	58
Right of Visit/Droit d'Hebergement	24
Adoption Plénière	14
Appointment of Guardian and Sub-Guardian	20
Adoption Simple	54
Rectification in Civil Status Acts	10
Ouverture de la Tutelle	51
Deprivation of parental authority	5
Application for loan from bank	8
Legitimation par adoption	1
Counselling in view of reconciliation	25
Counselling in view of facilitating access to minor	12
Acknowledgement of minor	3
Application for change of name	1
Application for order declaring that Plaintiff is not minor's father	2
Ouverture de Curatelle	1
Application to withdraw money from minor's bank account	2
Application for adoption order from abroad to be made executory in Mauritius	2
Application for authorisation to sell a house	1
Declaration d'absence	2
Application for authorisation to sell a plot of land	2
Judicial declaration of death	2
Appointment of administrator to administer estate and succession of a deceased person	1
Application for order authorising PIO to issue passport to minor	2
TOTAL	303

13. 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 six meetings of the National Adoption Council during the year and eleven social enquiry reports were submitted on children to be adopted.

The National Council Board for 2009 constituted of the following:

1. Mrs A.K. Bacha, Chairperson
2. Representative of the Ministry of Local Government and Rodrigues
3. Representative of the Attorney General's Office
4. The Commissioner of Probation and Aftercare or representative
5. Representative of Prime Minister's Office
6. Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration International Trade
7. Representative of Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizen Welfare and Reform Institutions
8. Representative of Charitable Institutions
9. Representative of Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development & Family Welfare & Consumer Protection.
10. Representative of Commissioner of Police
11. Mrs L. Leboeuf, Member
12. Mrs G.D. Purryag, Ag. Secretary, National Adoption Council

14. 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 2009 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.

15. 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 55,540 as grant-in-aid from government in respect of 911 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. G. Huldarowa, *Principal Probation Officer/Secretary*

16. 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 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 2009 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:-

Remand	42
Convocations	4
Admissions	12
Discharge	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	<u>62</u>

B. The Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors

The composition of the Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of Visitors for year 2009 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. Mr Govinduthsing Raghoonundun
6. Mr Saleem Peerbaccosse
7. Mr Renganaden Veeramootoo
8. Mrs Sabeet Kalasopaten
9. Sister M. A. Juliette
10. Welfare Officer (Rehabilitation Youth Centre) *Secretary*

Monthly meetings were held during the year and the Probation and Aftercare Service submitted 56 Social Enquiry Reports to the Board as follows:

Consideration	: 7
Week end leave	: 15
Progress	: <u>34</u> (17 boys, 17 girls)
Total	<u>56</u>

17. PREVENTIVE WORK

Preventive Talks in Colleges and Social Welfare Centres for the year 2009

During the year, a total of 172 preventive talks were carried out in schools, colleges and social welfare centres across the island by officers at regional level. However most of the talks were effected during the months of February to May 2009, that is, during the first semester of the school calendar. Students benefited from these talks and they responded positively. In social welfare centres the target group was mainly adults, elderly persons and parents, who were sensitized about their role in the family and the community at large towards bringing up law-abiding and honest citizens. Topics of talks were related to the following:

- Juvenile delinquency
- Role and responsibilities of parents
- Role of Probation Officer in the family and the community
- Suicide prevention
- Causes and ill-effects of substance abuse and smoking
- Adolescence and its problems
- Indiscipline in schools
- Interpersonal relationship in the family
- Impact of media on youth

18. IN-SERVICE TRAINING (RODRIGUES)

Mrs H. Luckeenarain was on visit to Rodrigues for the period 23 November to 30 November 2009. The aim of the visit was to carry out in-service training for the Probation and Aftercare staff of Rodrigues.

Training was carried out on the following themes:-

1. Probation of Offenders Act 1947 (with emphasis on amendments)
2. Community Service Order Act (with emphasis on amendments)
3. Juvenile Offenders Act 1935 Proposed Amendments
4. Social Enquiry Reports
5. Suicide Prevention

19. 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 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.

20. 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 2009, a total of 3371 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 4040 cases were attended to during the year.

312 Community Service Orders were made by the Intermediate and District Courts whereas 577 Probation Orders were made. The total number of persons on probation during the year was 1121 and 274 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