



MINISTRY OF CIVIL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
MAURITIUS

03 April 2017

Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

Circular Note No. 10 of 2017

E/60/30/01V3

From: Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
To: Supervising Officers in-charge-of Ministries/Departments
Island Chief Executive, Rodrigues Regional Assembly

Protocol on Heavy Rainfall for the Public Sector

In the wake of the unpredictable and unfortunate occurrence of the heavy rainfall of 10 February 2016, quite a chaotic situation prevailed regarding the release of public officers on that day. As a consequence thereof, this Ministry was mandated to prepare and come up with a protocol for the release of public officers on instances of heavy rainfall, while ensuring service continuity.

2. A protocol was accordingly produced and, on 09 March 2017, Government agreed to the Protocol on Heavy Rainfall for the Public Sector, including Parastatal Bodies falling under their aegis. The Protocol has been worked out by this Ministry in consultation with all Ministries/Departments, particularly the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, the Mauritius Meteorological Services and the National Transport Authority. A copy of the "Protocol on Heavy Rainfall for the Public Sector" is enclosed.
3. The protocol seeks to provide advice and practical guidelines on work arrangements in times of heavy rainfall/localised heavy rainfall and lays emphasis on the safety of employees and service continuity. The protocol is applicable to Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Organisations, **except** for those:-
 - (i) operating in the essential services;
 - (ii) on roster, shift and staggered hours;
 - (iii) whose services are required during extreme weather conditions; and
 - (iv) where such a protocol already exists, albeit with some specific components/requirements.
4. It is emphasised that the protocol is meant to be observed after the issue of Heavy Rainfall Warning by the Mauritius Meteorological Services and after decision/instruction from the National Crisis Committee upon recommendation from the National Emergency Operations Command. This articulation in terms of issue of the relevant communication is taken care of by the relevant bodies; and, finally, Ministries/Departments will be issued with the appropriate instructions, on which they should act.

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5. The Mauritius Meteorological Services has informed that there is no rigid definition for heavy rainfall and that for internal use "Heavy rain is defined as rain equal to or greater than 50 mm of short duration that is likely to cause temporary disruption in socio-economic activities due to water accumulation, abnormal surface water runoff or marked rise in stream flow/water level of rivers."

6. You are requested to ensure the implementation of the protocol in your respective Ministry/Department and Parastatal Bodies/ Local Authorities falling under your aegis. Additional hard copies of the protocol may be collected from the Conditions of Service, Unit 1, Level 8 of this Ministry. The soft copy of the document may be accessed on website <http://civilservice.govmu.org>.

7. "The Protocol on Heavy Rainfall for the Public Sector", being a first document of its kind, can only be assessed after its implementation. Hence, any issues arising in the implementation of the protocol should be reported to this Ministry at the earliest, with appropriate recommendations, where possible.

8. Supervising Officers of Ministries/Departments are invited to personally pay attention to need for compliance with the above and ascertain that the contents of the Circular are brought to the attention of all officers of your respective Ministry/Department as well as to Parastatal Bodies and local Authorities under your aegis.



S. K. Pather
Senior Chief Executive

Copy to: Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service