



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND
INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS
MAURITIUS**

15 March 2021

Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
Circular Letter No 09 of 2021
E/60/28/29/37 V1T

From : Secretary for Public Service

To : Supervising Officers in charge of Ministries/Departments

Implementation of the Sandbox Framework

One of the measures announced in the Budget Speech 2020-2021 relates to the introduction of a new Sandbox Framework to facilitate the development of proof of concepts and pilot exercises to test the possibilities of innovative technologies. Consequently, the Public Procurement Act was amended under the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 to empower a public body to request one or multiple suppliers to submit proof of concepts or prototypes prior to the procurement of innovative technology or other systems.

2. This Ministry has, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, worked out a Sandbox Framework for the adoption of innovative technologies in the Public Service. A copy of the proposed framework is attached. The Sandbox Framework, which is based on international best practices, will provide Public organisations with the flexibility to have recourse to the services of innovative companies and start-ups to develop applications in response to a particular problem without going through the lengthy process of existing procurement procedures. This Ministry has been mandated to spearhead and support the implementation of the Sandbox Framework in the Public Service. The broad objectives of the Sandbox Framework are to:

- (i) encourage and stimulate Ministries and Departments to implement innovative technology solutions through proof of concept models on a non-committal and non-prejudiced basis to Government;
- (ii) foster collaboration between the public and private sector in the development and testing of innovative solutions;

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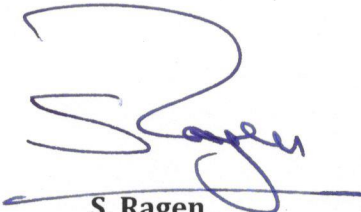
- (iii) attract local or international service providers as well as incubators to share their expertise on innovative technologies or systems such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain, ePayment, Electronic Document Management System, Collaborative Software and eSignature;
- (iv) provide deeper insights into the technology solution before deployment on a larger scale; and
- (v) provide opportunities for Public organisations to try innovative technology solutions to a particular problem with minimal potential risks.

3. Government has approved the introduction of the Sandbox Framework to promote the adoption of emerging and innovative technologies in Ministries and Departments to improve the quality of service delivery and respond to the evolving needs and exigencies of the ever-demanding public. Further details are in the attached document.

4. In this context, Supervising Officers are requested to identify at least two problems or proposals for improving service delivery that could be considered under the Sandbox Framework. These proposals will have to be submitted on the online platform which has been developed by this Ministry to manage the Sandbox Framework. The platform is accessible at <https://sandbox.govmu.org>.

5. For any additional information, the Public Sector Business Transformation Bureau of this Ministry may be contacted on telephone numbers 405 5427, 405 5461 or email on psbtb@govmu.org.

6. I rely on your usual collaboration and support for the successful implementation of the Sandbox Framework in the Public Service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Ragen', is written over a horizontal line.

S. Ragen
Secretary for Public Service

Enc.