OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN OF MAURITIUS

In collaboration with the **MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH**

Logo Design Competition

Terms & Conditions of Entry

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1. Organisers

The Logo Design Competition is being organised by the Office of the Ombudsman of Mauritius ("the Office"), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research ("the Ministry").

2. About the Office

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under Chapter IX of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius. Its main purpose is to investigate complaints from members of the public on alleged maladministration by Government Institutions and make recommendations to remedy any injustice that may have been committed by any public officer or authority in the exercise of their administrative functions. In carrying out its constitutional mandate, the Office promotes good governance, transparency, accountability, and ensures respect for citizens' rights in public administration. *(More information in the annex)*

3. Objective of the Logo Competition

The competition invites students to design the **first official** logo of the Office of the Ombudsman — a logo that reflects the Office's mandate and embodies its core values i.e, fairness, transparency & accountability, effectiveness, impartiality, and independence.

The selected logo shall be used as the official visual identity of the Office (both local and international), and may be used in various formats and sizes in publications, official letters, reports, banners, posters, flyers, website, video graphics, and other communication tools.

4. Eligibility

4.1 The competition is open to students who are currently enrolled, on a full-time or part-time basis, in public and private higher education institutions registered with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), as well as students enrolled in fulltime award courses in training and pre-vocational institutions registered with the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA).

4.2 This competition is open to students pursuing studies in graphic design, creative media, and digital arts, or any other relevant fields.

Entrants shall be required to submit proof of enrolment *(for example, a valid student identification card or a letter of enrolment from their institution)*.

4.3 Staff of the Office of the Ombudsman, officers directly involved in the organisation or administration of the competition, and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate in the competition.

"Immediate family member" means a spouse, domestic partner, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or parent-in-law, child-in-law, or sibling-in-law of the person concerned, whether by blood, marriage, or adoption.

4.4 Entries may be submitted either individually or by a team of two (2) students. Where an entry is submitted by a team, the team shall designate one representative as its point of contact. Any arrangements regarding the sharing of the prize shall be the sole responsibility of the team members.

5. Design requirements

5.1 The logo shall be original, simple, memorable, and timeless.

5.2 It must be clear and legible at small sizes (such as a stamp, letterheads) and large sizes (such as signage, banners).

5.3 It must be suitable for both print and digital use.

5.4 It must not contain any party-political, offensive, defamatory, obscene or discriminatory content, and should avoid excessive visual complexity.

5.5 The logo should reflect the Mauritian identity and may incorporate elements that convey a distinct Mauritian character. The use of national symbols shall comply with applicable laws.

5.6 The name of the **"Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of Mauritius"** shall be included in the proposed logo design.

5.7 The logo may be produced using a maximum of four (4) flat colours or quadrichromy (full colour). The following values may be used for the National Flag (Red: C 0 M 96 Y 93 K 2; Blue: C 100 M 75 Y 0 K 6; Yellow: C 0, M 20 Y 100 K 2; Green: C 90 M0 Y 93 K 0).

6. Originality and warranties

6.1 By entering the competition, each entrant confirms that the submitted design is their own original work and has been created specifically for this competition.

6.2 The design shall not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party and shall not contain copyrighted material, stock images, trademarks, logos or any copied, adapted, or traced artwork.

6.3 Any entry found to be plagiarized, copied or generated substantially from an existing protected work or otherwise not original may be disqualified at any stage of the

competition. The Office reserves the right to withdraw any award and recover any prize already granted.

6.4 Each entry shall be accompanied by a signed Declaration of Authorship and Authenticity. The following declaration shall be completed and signed by the entrant's own handwriting:-

"I/We hereby declare that the submitted design is my/our original creation and has been developed in accordance with the rules and conditions of the Logo Design Competition of the Office of the Ombudsman. I/We further declare that the design does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party and does not violate any copyright, trademark or other proprietary right"

7. Submission of Entries

7.1 Entries must be submitted electronically by email with subject reading **"OMB Logo Competition**" to **events.ombudsman@govmu.org** with a copy to **mtesradmsection@gmail.com** not later than **31 August 2026 at 15.00hrs**.

7.2 Each entrant or team may submit a maximum of one design.

7.3 Submissions should be in an editable vector-based format, along with a JPG and/or PNG version as well as a PDF version. The total upload capacity should not exceed 20MB.

7.4 Participants shall name the file using the following format: **SURNAME_initial(s) of forename** (e.g DAVIS_JM.jpg and DAVIS_JM.pdf).

7.5 Each submission must be accompanied by the entrant's full name, name of institution, programme of study, year of study, contact details, and a short guideline specifying the dimensions, spacing, and colours in terms of CMYK, RGB, and Pantone. It must also be accompanied by a brief of not more than 150 words explaining the concept and rationale of the design.

7.6 Each submission must include a full colour version, a black and white version, and a reverse version suitable for use on dark backgrounds.

7.7 Incomplete, late, illegible, or ineligible entries will not be considered.

7.8 **Each entry will be assigned a unique reference number to ensure that identifying particulars of entrants are withheld from the Jury/Evaluation Panel during the assessment process.**

8. Data protection and publicity

8.1 Any personal data collected in connection with the competition shall be processed solely for the purposes of administering the competition, and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2017.

8.2 By entering the competition, participants consent to the use of their names and submitted designs for purposes connected with the promotion of the competition, the announcement of results, and the publication, display, or exhibition of entries by the Office of the Ombudsman.

9. Judging

9.1 A Jury/Evaluation Panel will be constituted to assess all eligible entries and select the winning logo design.

9.2 The Jury/Evaluation Panel shall comprise representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, and experts in graphic design, creative media and digital arts, or any other relevant fields.

9.3 All eligible entries will be anonymised before their submission to the Jury/Evaluation Panel. The identity of entrants will not be disclosed to members of the Jury/Evaluation Panel until the evaluation process has been completed and the winning entry has been selected.

9.4 Designs will be assessed against the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Visual impact (including simplicity and versatility)	**30%**
Relevance to the mandate and values of the Office	**25%**
Technical quality and guidelines	**25%**
Creativity and originality	**20%**

9.5 The decision of the Jury/Evaluation Panel shall be final and binding, and no correspondence or appeal shall be entertained.

9.6 The Office may request reasonable modifications or refinements to the winning design before its final adoption and official use. Such modifications or refinements shall be carried out by the winner at no cost to the Office.

10. Prize

10.1 The entrant of the winning logo design will receive a cash prize of Rs 25,000 and a Certificate of Recognition**,** which shall be presented during the official unveiling ceremony of the logo organized by the Office of the Ombudsman.

10.2 Only one winning design shall be selected. The Office may, at its discretion, award Certificates of Participation, merit, or appreciation to runners-up.

10.3 Payment of the prize shall be conditional upon the winner(s) signing the assignment of intellectual property rights referred to in clause 11.3.

10.4 The Office reserves the right not to award the prize if, in the opinion of the jury/evaluation panel, no submission satisfies the objectives and requirements of the competition.

11. Intellectual property and use of the winning design

11.1 Upon acceptance of the prize, the winning entrant(s) shall assign and transfer to the Office of the Ombudsman all intellectual property rights including copyrights, in the winning design, for worldwide use and for the full duration of such rights (in perpetuity).

11.2 The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the unrestricted right to reproduce, publish, adapt, refine, modify, digitize, translate, register or further develop the winning design for official use.

11.3 As a condition of receiving the prize, the winning entrant(s) shall agree to sign a deed of declaration or assignment or consent to give effect to the transfer of intellectual property rights to the Office of the Ombudsman.

11.4 Entrants retain ownership of any design that is not selected as the winner.

11.5 The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right not to select any entry and not to award the prize if, in the opinion of the Jury/Evaluation Panel, no submission satisfactorily meets the objectives and requirements of the competition.

12. Liability

12.1 The organisers shall not be liable for any loss, delay, corruption, damage, or non-receipt of entries arising during transmission or submission of entries by any means.

12.2 The organisers shall not be responsible for any technical malfunction, computer failure, internet disruption, or other circumstance beyond its reasonable control that may affect participation in the competition.

12.3 Submitted entries and supporting materials shall not be returned.

13. General Provisions

13.1 The organisers reserve the right to amend, suspend, postpone or cancel the competition, or to vary these Terms and Conditions, where circumstances so require. Any such amendment shall be communicated through official channels.

13.2 Participation in the competition shall constitute full acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

13.3 These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Republic of Mauritius.

13.4 Any matter arising from or relating to the competition that is not expressly provided for in these Terms and Conditions shall be determined by the organisers, whose decision shall be final.

For any queries regarding the competition, participants may contact the Office of the Ombudsman on **260 0111**.

Annex

About the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Mauritius

The Ombudsman institution traces its origins to Sweden, where it was established as an independent mechanism to protect citizens against any errors, abuse, violation of rights, dysfunction, or inaction, and any other forms of administrative injustice on the part of public authorities. In so doing, he conducts impartial and independent investigations, reports findings, and makes recommendations intended to promote legality, accountability, justice, fairness, and good governance.

In Mauritius, the idea of establishing a similar institution predates our independence. The proposal was made at the Constitutional Review Talks held at the Colonial Office in 1961, for the creation of an independent body to investigate complaints arising from administrative actions. This proposal was followed by several discussions during the constitutional debates until it was incorporated under Chapter IX of the Constitution of Mauritius, which provided the powers and functions of the institution.

In 1969, the Ombudsman Act was enacted which catered for certain supplementary and ancillary matters necessary for the proper functioning of the Office. Finally, in 1970, the Office of the Ombudsman was set up for operations, marking an important milestone in strengthening administrative accountability and the protection of citizens' rights in Mauritius.

The Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius empowers the Ombudsman to investigate any action taken by an officer or authority in the exercise of administrative functions, in which a member of the public claims, or appears to the Ombudsman, to have sustained injustice in consequence of maladministration in connection with the action so taken.

The Ombudsman’s jurisdiction extends to investigations regarding the administrative actions of :–

(a) any department of the Government;

(b) the Police Force or any member thereof;

(c) the Mauritius Prison Service or any other service maintained and controlled by the Government or any officer or authority of any such service;

(d) any authority empowered to determine the person with whom any contract or class of contracts is to be entered into by or on behalf of the Government or any such officer or authority;

(e) the Rodrigues Regional Assembly or any officer of the said Assembly;

(f) any local authority or any officer of such local authority;

(g) such other officers or authorities as may be prescribed by Parliament

The complaint must relate to a personal injustice allegedly suffered as a result of maladministration in connection with an action taken by a public authority *(Ministry/ Department, Local Authority, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, the Police Force, Prison Service)*.

The Office of the Ombudsman of Mauritius also plays an active role within the international Ombudsman community. It is a full voting member of several prominent organisations, including:

i). **The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)**, a global organisation established in 1978 that brings together more than 200 independent Ombudsman institutions from more than 100 countries worldwide.

ii). **The Association des Ombudsmans et Médiateurs de la Francophonie (AOMF)**, which promotes and strengthens the role of Ombudsmen and Mediators throughout the Francophone world while supporting the development of independent mediation institutions.

iii). **The African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA)**, a regional organisation dedicated to encouraging the establishment of Ombudsman institutions across Africa, fostering cooperation, and promoting professional training and institutional capacity building.

The Office operates independently and provides its services free of charge to the public. Its **MISSION** is to be an effective Constitutional Office that addresses administrative injustices and promotes principles of good administration. Its **VISION** is to improve public service by investigating and reporting alleged maladministration by public authorities and by raising public awareness.

Today, the Office has evolved into a well-established dedicated institution to protecting citizens against maladministration. Through its constitutional independence, investigative powers, and commitment to impartiality, the Office serves as an essential pillar of democratic governance, reinforcing public confidence in the administration, promoting accountability within the public sector, and ensuring that the principles of justice, fairness, and good administration remain at the heart of public service in the Republic of Mauritius.