

5. The Commission is aware that part of the reason for the non-employment of Creoles is that many lack the necessary qualifications. Therefore, the Commission urges Government to embark on establishing enhanced Technical Colleges which will enable those who do not complete High School to be trained as artisans in different fields.
6. Working-class families are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of the language medium of instruction presently practised in schools. It is strongly recommended that Creole be introduced as a medium of instruction at all levels as a matter of urgency (see Further Recommendations under Education Project).

It further recommends that all National Examinations before Form V be abolished. This causes undue stress on children, parents and teachers and has no pedagogical value whatsoever.

7. Race Discrimination

However, the Commission has no doubt that race discrimination against Creoles, in particular, is a further reason for Creole people to feel “left behind”. Therefore, the Commission recommends that discrimination, at any level, on the basis of race, colour, gender, caste and religion should be outlawed. Anti-Discrimination legislation should be introduced to give teeth to the rooting out of discrimination which exists in Mauritius.

8. Land

One of the most vexing and complex challenges faced by the Commission was to try and be of material assistance to deponents who believe they have been unjustly dispossessed of their land. Many of those who have come before us have inadequate documentation and, in most cases, our search of the archives has not produced the missing documentation. In some instances, we have discovered that the land has been sold or prescribed. The Commission has also noted, with alarm and dismay, that some land consultants, some Notaries, some Lawyers and some Land Surveyors have misled, or have made promises on payment of money to, some of those who appeared before the Commission, and have never delivered.

The Commission is strongly of the opinion that a Land Monitoring and Research Unit be established as a matter of urgency. This Unit should be a permanent body whose main task will be to assist citizens to establish the facts concerning their search for land which they believe is rightly theirs. Unnecessary bureaucracy should be avoided at all costs.

The Commission recommends that the State considers granting small parcels of land to deserving cases. It further recommends that legislation be introduced which will give greater protection against those Land Consultants, Notaries and Lawyers who are a disgrace to their profession and unscrupulous in their dealings with those who seek their assistance.

9. Housing

The Commission recognises that successive administrations have provided low-cost housing to those who need it most. However, it is clear that many of the citizens of Mauritius are living in degrading circumstances. Some well-intentioned schemes have failed and some families are living in overcrowded, unkempt housing, and many in absolute squalor.

The Commission recommends that immediate plans be introduced to audit existing housing estates with a view to upgrading and, where necessary, to embarking on new decent (not low-cost) housing projects.

Many housing estates have buildings constructed with asbestos, a toxic substance which is damaging to health. These houses should be pulled down on a phase to phase basis and other units constructed with proper material. Many housing estates, now known as residences, are devoid of kindergarten, playgrounds and some are without community centres. These shortcomings should be addressed.