

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2024

1. Cabinet has agreed to both the draft Constitution (Amendment) Bill and the draft Political Financing Bill being finalised and circulated for public consultations, including amongst all Members of the National Assembly, the Electoral Supervisory Commission, the Electoral Commissioner, the Financial Crimes Commission and Business Mauritius. The draft Bills would also be posted on the website of the Prime Minister’s Office, inviting views and comments from the general public.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the promotion of direct investment. The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding would be to exchange –

- (a) statistical information related to direct investment and available business opportunities;
- (b) information on laws and regulations related to direct investment opportunities and the improvement of investment climate in both countries;
- (c) information on investment opportunities available in both countries; and
- (d) information on available opportunities between the two countries and encourage internal and external investment.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the promulgation of the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2024 to extend its application until 31 May 2024. The Regulations provide, inter alia, for a person entitled to carry out irrigation of sugarcane to abstract water from a watercourse provided that such watercourse did not feed impounding reservoirs and where the Central Water Authority did not abstract water for domestic water supply. In addition, such abstraction should not cause prejudice to any interest that a person might hold in the concerned watercourse.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) Ltd for the review of the “*Canotte*” Scheme for registered fishers. The “*Canotte*” Scheme was first introduced in the year 2015 with the aim of providing financial support to registered artisanal fishers to enable them to purchase better equipped fishing boats, commonly known as “*canottes*”. The revised scheme would provide for –

- (a) a grant representing 50 percent of the cost of the boat and other related costs including navigation and fishing accessories, up to a maximum of Rs300,000;
- (b) a loan from DBM Ltd representing 90 percent of the remaining cost of the project at an interest rate of three percent per annum and a repayment period of seven years including one-year moratorium; and
- (c) the remaining 10 percent of the cost to be met by the beneficiary from his own funds.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the National Assembly would host the *bureau exécutif* and the plenary meeting of *l'Association des Parlements des États membres de la Commission de l'Océan Indien* on 02 and 03 May 2024 in Mauritius. The objectives of the meetings would be to validate the activities planned for the year 2024 and provide a platform to reflect on ways and means to enhance and sustain the association. Around 27 participants comprising Speakers, Members of Parliament, officials, the Secretary General and officers of the Indian Ocean Commission would attend the *réunion du bureau exécutif* and the plenary meeting.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council would organise the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit on 08 and 09 May 2024 followed by the Mauritius Emerging Technology Exhibition (METX 2024) from 09 to 12 May 2024 in Mauritius. The AI Summit would also provide a platform for global leading minds in AI, including ICT Ministers from the sub-saharan region as well as from international organisations. The theme of METX 2024 would be “Defining Tomorrow” and would represent a significant step forward in integrating the power of AI in the Mauritian as well as the regional contexts.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the ‘Main Message’ of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report of Mauritius to the High-Level Political Forum to the United Nations Secretariat. The VNR is voluntary and is part of the follow-up and review mechanism established by the United Nations to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ‘Main Message’ highlights, inter alia, progress made in the implementation of the SDGs in Mauritius, the resilience of the Mauritian economy, and underscores the gaps and challenges encountered in its implementation.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of an Awareness Campaign on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The Ministry of Health and Wellness would hold a workshop on 02 May 2024 on the theme “*Protez Toi: Koze-Teste-Trete*”. In the same breath, an STI Awareness Campaign was being conducted, as from the third week of April till end of July 2024, with the collaboration of the World Health Organization and relevant stakeholders. The following activities would, inter alia, be organised -

- (a) community-based STI awareness campaigns targeting women and young girls in the Women Empowerment Centres;
- (b) screening at community-based level in all health regions through rapid tests for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis C;
- (c) an awareness campaign on STI among prison staff to improve early referral of inmates; and
- (d) an *atelier* on STI for Most at Risk Population, in collaboration with PILS to strengthen STI awareness among key population.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, as at 25 April 2024, there were 316 active cases of Dengue Fever in Mauritius, of which 50 persons had been hospitalised in both public and private hospitals. For Rodrigues, 139 active cases of Dengue Fever had been recorded of which 23 persons were hospitalised. A workshop on Integrated Vector Management Strategy and Insecticide Resistance Management in mosquito vectors in Mauritius was conducted on 23 and 24 April 2024 with the support of the World Health Organization.
