

**CABINET DECISIONS – 06 JULY 2018**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Road Traffic Act so as to -

- (a) do away with the present regime of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) whereby a person had the option to elect either to accept an FPN or to be reported with a view to proceedings being taken against him before a Court and to replace it with a more efficient regime whereby a person who refuses an FPN shall nevertheless be served with the FPN, the reason being that many persons who have refused the FPN later make requests to be issued with the FPN, which is currently not possible;
- (b) provide for the disqualification of a person where he is convicted of 5 cumulative road traffic offences, in lieu of 6;
- (c) consolidate the list of offences in relation to which an FPN may be served;
- (d) criminalise, inter alia, the possession, manufacture, sale, use, alteration or forgery of permits issued under the Act and parking coupons, with intent to deceive;
- (e) increase the fine, in respect of a person who, whilst being disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence or provisional driving licence or is disqualified from driving in Mauritius, is found to be driving on a road, from a maximum of 2,000 rupees to a fine of not less than 50,000 rupees and not exceeding 100,000 rupees;
- (f) increase fines in respect of other road traffic offences, including speeding; and
- (g) review the prescribed limit for alcohol concentration in the blood, breath and urine.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Local Government (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Local Government Act to provide for the implementation of measures announced in the Budget Speech 2018-2019 as regards illegal constructions and developments. The Bill provides for -

- (a) the harmonisation and strengthening of legal provisions pertaining to illegal constructions and developments and give more powers to the local authorities;
- (b) the increase of penalties for illegal constructions and developments; and
- (c) mandatory pulling down orders by District Courts for illegal constructions and developments.

Consequential amendments would be brought to the Building Control Act 2012, the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal Act 2012, the Town and Country Planning Act 1954 and the Recovery of State Debts Act 1876, to improve the legal framework for a more effective control of illegal development.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that following the full evaluation of MAURITAS by the Evaluation Team of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) in May 2018, the Terms of Reference and membership of the Accreditation Committee have been reviewed. Dr Henri Li Kam Wah, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Mauritius has been appointed as Chairperson of the Accreditation Committee.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that in the context of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), Mauritius and India have finalised a Joint Study Report which sets the parameters and accesses for the opportunities arising from the Agreement. The Joint Study Report is a comprehensive document which details the economic developments of Mauritius and India and sets the parameters and scope of the CECPA. It contains four key chapters, namely on Investment, Trade in Services, Economic Cooperation and Trade in Goods. Negotiations on the CECPA based on the recommendations of the Joint Study Report are ongoing and are expected to be concluded before the end of the year.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the 21<sup>st</sup> plenary session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) would be held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya on 12 and 13 July 2018. The CGPCS is an international coordination mechanism which was established by the United Nations Security Council in January 2009 following the surge of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The CGPCS is currently chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the United Nations International Day of Cooperatives would be celebrated on 07 July 2018. The theme for this year is “*Sustainable Consumption and Production*” with the slogan “*Sustainable Societies through Cooperation*”. On the occasion, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives would organise, among others, the following activities -

- (a) an Official Ceremony at Octave Wiehé Auditorium, University of Mauritius, Réduit on 7 July 2018 comprising, inter alia, the opening of an exhibition on the theme “Sustainable Consumption and Production” and the launching of the National Awards for Cooperatives 2018 competition; and
- (b) a National Cooperative Market Fair from 7 to 9 July 2018 at the University of Mauritius.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Financial Services Institute Co. Ltd.

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