

CABINET DECISIONS – 01 NOVEMBER 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Special Education Needs Authority Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of a Special Education Needs Authority which shall be responsible for –

- (a) monitoring and facilitating implementation of special education needs policies of Government;
- (b) advising the Minister on the formulation of policies and on the criteria for the registration of –
 - (i) special education needs institutions;
 - (ii) the teaching and non-teaching staff, and any other resource person, of special education needs institutions;
- (c) providing guidelines for the design and development of curriculum for special education needs; and
- (d) the harmonisation and promotion of programmes and policies for the education and holistic development of persons with special education needs, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has ranked 20th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2019, compared to the 25th position last year. The country's score improved from 77.54 last year to 79.58, implying that the country has improved its business regulatory environment and is closing the gap with respect to the most advanced economies. Mauritius maintains its leading position out of 48 countries in Africa and is ranked third among the 51 upper middle-income economies in the world.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the modalities for the setting up of 100 farms under a Sheltered Farming Scheme, over the next two years, as announced in Budget Speech 2018/2019. The Development Bank of Mauritius would lead the project and would be responsible for the setting up of the 100 ready-to-operate farms on State Land in the regions of Melrose, Plaine Magnien, Solitude, Beau Climat and Caroline. The Scheme would be open to the general public, cooperative societies registered under the Cooperatives Act and SMEs. An expression of interest would be launched.

4. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the Riche Terre Business and Industrial Park project and agreed to Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd issuing letters of intent to 21 additional economic operators for the allocation of land in the Riche Terre Business and Industrial Park.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises sector for the period January to August 2018, as compared to the same period in 2017. Increase had been recorded in the value of exports of Textiles & Clothing, Textiles (Yarns and Fabrics), fish and fish preparations, jewellery, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, medical devices and watches and clocks. Growth has been recorded in exports to the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, USA and South Africa.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make Regulations under the Nursing Council Act with a view to increasing the fees for registration of nurses and midwives.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products in Mauritius in June 2019, in line with the Guidelines for the implementation of Articles 11 and 13 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control which Mauritius ratified in 2004. The objectives of plain packaging are to –

- (a) reduce the attractiveness of tobacco products;
- (b) eliminate the effects of tobacco packaging as a form of advertising and promotion;
- (c) address package design techniques that may suggest that some products are less harmful than others; and
- (d) increase the noticeability and effectiveness of pictorial health warnings.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World Diabetes Day 2018, observed on 14 November, namely –

- (a) the official launching of World Diabetes Day 2018 on 19 November 2018 at the Octave Wiehé Auditorium, Réduit;
- (b) an exhibition on NCDs and other health related issues;
- (c) screening for the general public for risk factors of NCDs including diabetes; and
- (d) sensitisation campaigns on the risks factors and prevention of diabetes.

The theme for this year is “**The Family and Diabetes**”.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Brussels where he attended the 21st meeting of the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee and the 16th meeting of the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee. Discussions at the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee and the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee focused, among others, on the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement, Trade Cooperation under Post Cotonou negotiations, latest WTO developments, Brexit, Commodities including sugar and fisheries, Trade related capacity building programmes and Non Tariff Barriers.

In the margins of the visit, the Minister had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mr Pierre Moscovici, EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs with whom he reviewed the situation of Mauritius in relation to the EU Common List of Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdictions; and
- (b) Mr João Aguiar Machado, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) regarding the establishment of a Coordination Platform for structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders in the fisheries sector with the aim of ensuring a predictable supply of raw tuna to the tuna canneries.
