

CABINET DECISIONS – 11 MAY 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the Republic of Madagascar in the context of the Mauritius-Madagascar Joint Commission which will be held from 14 to 17 May 2018. The BTA outlines the broad parameters for enhancing trade cooperation between the two countries and addressing barriers to trade. It also provides for a platform, through the Joint Commission, for both countries to meet and expeditiously address problems in their bilateral trade as they occur.

2. Cabinet has also agreed to Mauritius signing a *Protocole sur la Coopération Culturelle* with the Republic of Madagascar. The *Protocole* would, inter alia, encourage –

- (a) participation of artistic groups in international cultural events organised in the respective countries;
- (b) close collaboration between key institutions such as the National Archives Department, the Mauritius Museums Council, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and the National Library;
- (c) assistance for projects relating to genealogy and the Intercontinental Slavery Museum; and
- (d) the twinning of Le Morne Cultural Landscape of Mauritius with the Royal Hill of Ambohimanga of Madagascar, two UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Revenue Authority would sign an Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs matters with the Malagasy Customs Authorities. The Agreement provides, inter alia, for the following –

- (a) the establishment of the scope and modalities within which mutual assistance will be provided;
- (b) the exchange of information and mutual assistance to prevent, investigate and combat customs offences, trafficking of illicit substances, money laundering and financing of terrorism;
- (c) the promotion of transfer of expertise, new techniques and best practices; and
- (d) the provision of other technical assistance in customs matters.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the pay day for the month of May 2018 has been rescheduled to 25 May in view of the celebration of Mother's Day on 27 May 2018.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the Cyber4D Programme which is financed by the EU to the tune of Euro 11M, a team of experts would be in Mauritius and would have a series of consultations with different stakeholders dealing with Cyber Security in Mauritius from 14 to 18 May 2018. The Cyber4D Programme would be implemented in Senegal, Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius, Botswana and Sri Lanka, to strengthen cyber security policy, strategic and coordination frameworks, response capacity to cyber incidents and cyber expertise. Mauritius has been included in the project on the proposal of Estonia following the recent signature of a G to G Agreement between the Estonian and Mauritian Prime Ministers in Abidjan.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms would organise in the context of the National Road Safety Campaign. Four initiatives have been worked out to coincide with the UN Global Road Safety Campaign 2018, namely –

- (a) use of a specifically designed logo on all letters, memoranda and official documents to be issued by Ministries/Departments, as well as parastatal bodies and local authorities;
- (b) display of posters and mini posters in all vehicles utilised by public sector employees, as well as on notice boards and work sites;
- (c) dissemination of a special message on the social and economic implications of road traffic accidents through the e-mail systems of public organisations; and
- (d) organisation of a march during lunch hours in Port Louis by public officers.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of Mauritius in the 11th Edition of the “*Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l’Océan Indien*” (CJSOI) Games held in April 2018 in Djibouti. Mauritius topped this year’s edition of the CJSOI Games with ten gold medals, eight silver medals and five bronze medals. The Minister of Youth and Sports who headed a delegation to the CJSOI Games also attended the Committee of Ministers of the CJSOI. The following main decisions were taken by the Ministerial Committee -

- (a) Mauritius would organise the next edition of the CJSOI Games in 2021; and
- (b) the theme chosen for this year’s celebrations of the “*Journée de la Jeunesse de l’Océan Indien*” in December is “*Le pouvoir d’agir des jeunes de l’Océan Indien*”.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Merchant Shipping (International Safety Management) (ISM Code) Regulations and the Merchant Shipping (Certificate of Competency and Certificate of Proficiency) Regulations under the Merchant Shipping Act. The Merchant Shipping (International Safety Management) (ISM Code) Regulations would implement the requirements of Chapter IX of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 and the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention. The Regulations would ensure that every shipping company establishes a Safety Management System and implement a policy to achieve the objectives of the System. The Merchant Shipping (Certificate of Competency and Certificate of Proficiency) Regulations would provide a legal framework for the issue of Certificate of Competency and Certificate of Proficiency to seafarers of the fishing industry who have successfully completed their Nautical or Marine Engineering courses.

9. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct Concerning the "*Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illicit Maritime Activity in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden*". The revised Code of Conduct covers, in addition to piracy human trafficking, various transnational organised crimes in the maritime domain such as trafficking in arms, narcotics and psychotropic substances, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, maritime terrorism and illegal oil bunkering. New measures that have to be implemented at national levels have also been incorporated under the revised Code. The revised Code requires the formulation and harmonisation of policies to ensure the sustainable use of marine living resources.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World Metrology Day 2018, celebrated on 20 May, namely Open Days at the Legal Metrology Services (LMS) from 16 to 18 May 2018 to inform and sensitise the public on the role of and services offered by the LMS and guided visits of the premises and laboratories of the LMS. The theme for this year is "**Constant evolution of the International System of Units**".

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture for the Africa Day 2018, celebrated on 25 May, namely –

- (a) a High Level Forum on the theme '*What African Strategy for Mauritius?*' on 25 May 2018 at the African Leadership University; and
- (b) the Africa Day 2018 Concert at the J & J Auditorium on 26 May 2018.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Tourism would organise a Beach Fun Day in collaboration with the pleasure craft operators of the Eastern region, at Belle Mare Public Beach on 13 May 2018. The event would consist of various activities, namely -

- (a) nautical and water sports activities such as catamaran tours, glass bottom boat trips, parasailing, *bouées/bananes* rides and “fly n dive”;
- (b) beach activities such as jumping castles for children, surf rides, penalty shot, waterslides, bungee, pirate boat and sand sculpture competitions; and
- (c) musical animations including Sega and Bhojpuri songs by six local groups and two Juke box.

Most of the activities would be offered free of charge while some of them would be proposed at heavily discounted rate to the public.

13. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would host the Annual Workshop of the “*Association des Ombudsmans et Médiateurs de la Francophonie*” (AOMF) from 14 to 17 May 2018. The objectives of the Workshop are to -

- (a) ensure continuous training and capacity building of members of the “*Comité enfants*” of AOMF;
- (b) establish a platform for exchange among AOMF Members for the betterment of their respective institution;
- (c) reinforce the working relationship and collaboration of the Ombudsperson for Children’s Office with AOMF; and
- (d) explore and reflect on Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Mauritius has signed and ratified.

The theme for the Workshop is “*Article 12: Le droit d’exprimer librement son opinion*” of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Some 15 participants from 14 Member countries would attend the Workshop.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to Seychelles where he attended the African Shipowners Summit organised by the African Shipowners Association in collaboration with the African Union Commission. The Summit decided, inter alia, to

- (a) adopt the recommendations of the six Technical Working Groups;
- (b) recommend to the Chairperson of the African Union to appoint HE Mr Danny Faure, President of the Seychelles, as the leader of the development of Blue Economy in Africa at the next Summit of the African Union;
- (c) commend the African Union for the ongoing process in establishing a Blue Economy Unit; and

- (d) encourage the revitalization of partnerships between the African Union and key partners on security, safety and development.

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection paid a courtesy call on the President of the Seychelles, and had meetings with Hon Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and Hon Wallace Cosgrow, Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation to discuss projects of common interest. He also had working sessions with the Seychelles Trading Company and Seychelles Petroleum Company Limited (Seypec).

15. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the Report prepared by the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service following their investigation into the outbreak of the fire at the warehouse of Shoprite Hypermarket, Trianon. The Report has been submitted to the Commissioner of Police and the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training as a complement to the investigations which are being carried out by them regarding criminal proceedings and compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA) with Mr Michael Lyndon Veeraragoo as Chairperson

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Opticians Registration Board with the Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life as Chairperson.
