

CABINET DECISIONS – 08 JUNE 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2017-2018) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the supplementary appropriation, by vote of expenditure, in respect of services of Government for the financial year 2017-2018, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2017-2018) Act 2017.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa in the field of fisheries. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to further enhance the existing friendly relations between the two countries through development of cooperation in the fields of fisheries, fishing, seafood processing, trade of fish and fish products by, inter alia, –

- (a) promoting aquaculture development and exchange of related expertise and technologies;
- (b) conducting joint research on marine living resources; and
- (c) collaborating in the enforcement of measures aimed at reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities.

It also provides for the setting up of a Joint Committee that would be responsible for the development of biennial programmes of cooperation and the implementation thereof.

3. Cabinet has taken note that structural changes would be made to the layout and contents of the existing Government Portal (www.govmu.org). The existing Portal would be reviewed to align it with the criteria set by the United Nations e-Government Development Index and to -

- (a) provide a more user-friendly, resilient and secure platform with features responsive to new trends in web technology;
- (b) adopt the best possible architecture review so as to cater for growing concurrent sessions and applications on the Portal;
- (c) enable system administrators design modern and flexible websites for, among others, Ministries, Departments, Statutory Bodies and other Public Sector Organisations; and
- (d) make the Portal mobile friendly so as to reach a wider audience while enhancing user experience and to increase accessibility of information for users on the go.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance would promulgate the Financial Reporting (Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants) (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations to increase the membership fees of the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA) following a decision taken by the members of the MIPA at its General Assembly in September 2017.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the Enquiry Committee set up to look into the case of six minors who absconded with three babies from the Government-Owned Shelter Oasis Residential Drop-in Centre on 29 December 2017. The Enquiry Committee has made recommendations on ways to enhance the safety and security of minors accommodated in the Shelter. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has already taken steps in collaboration with the National Children's Council to implement the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee.

6. Cabinet has taken note that Hon Ms Aruna Devi Narain, Puisne Judge, was elected as Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on 7 June 2018 during the 20th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women held in New York.

7. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would support the renewal of the term of Shree Baboo Chekitan Servansing as Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation for a further period of two years.

8. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would submit its candidature to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON). The African Commission on Nuclear Energy acts as a compliance mechanism to the Pelindaba Treaty and is also responsible for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and promoting international cooperation.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions would host the African Prosecutors' Association Conference in Mauritius from 30 October to 1 November 2018.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of two meetings, namely the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Partnership Forum and the SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea (AIMS) region which were recently held in Mauritius. The SIDS-GBN Private Sector Partnership Forum aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned in strengthening partnerships for sustainable tourism in SIDS. The Forum addressed the linkages between tourism in SIDS with other cross-cutting sectors such as cultural heritage, environment, renewable energy, connectivity, sustainable oceans and finance.

During the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the SIDS of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea Region, discussions focused on the need to prepare a combined report for this region. The UNDP Office in New York would prepare the AIMS Regional report for submission to the Mid-Term Review Conference to be held in November 2018. The meeting agreed that the following thematic areas represented the collective priorities that should be addressed in the context of the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway, namely, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building, Water and Sanitation, Data Collection and Interpretation Gaps, Means of implementation including financing for development, Capacity Building, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment and Food Security. The Meeting also stressed the need to facilitate transfer of technology to promote innovation in SIDS.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Togo where he participated in the 107th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, the Ministerial Committee on Commodities and the 43rd Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. During the 107th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers, the Council made pronouncements on various issues, namely –

- (a) sustainable development and trade;
- (b) investment and the private sector development;
- (c) environment and climate change; and
- (d) the EU Common List of so-called non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and the state of play of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security chaired the ACP Ministerial Consultations on Commodities which covered, inter alia, the EU market outlook mainly for sugar, bananas and cotton and the trade uncertainties surrounding BREXIT and a new agricultural commodities-related action plan.

At the 47th Session of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the main issues discussed were the future of the ACP-EU relation; the strengthening of ACP-EU cooperation in international fora on issues of common interest, climate change in view of COP24 in Poland, ACP-EU migration dialogue, economic issues including EPAs and the European External Investment Plan.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to Mozambique where he participated in the Co-operative Leaders/Managers and Ministerial Conference Technical Committee Meeting. Discussions focused, among others, on efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the United Nations, that is “Zero Hunger”, the establishment of the Alliance Africa Agricultural Co-operative Organization, causes and mitigation strategies for food insecurity in Africa, action needed by co-operatives for Zero-Hunger and presentation of Country Reports. In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives had discussions with Hon Rajendra De Sousa, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Mozambique on cooperation in the Cooperatives Sector.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority with Mrs S. Kowlessur as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of Trustees of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Trust Fund with Dr (Mrs) J. Naugah as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Outer Islands Development Board with Mr V. Bantoo as Chairperson.
