

CABINET DECISIONS - 27 NOVEMBER 2009

1. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Fact Finding Committee, chaired by a Puisne Judge, to look into the allegations made against the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that, as announced in Budget Speech 2010, the rate of basic pensions will be increased by 3.5 percent as from January 2010. The new rate would be as follows:-

| <u>Types of Pensions</u>                        | <u>Rs</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) Basic Retirement Pensions                   |           |
| • Aged 60 and below 90                          | 3,048     |
| • Aged 90 and below 100                         | 9,067     |
| • Centenarians                                  | 10,292    |
| (b) Basic Widow's Pension                       | 2,745     |
| (c) Basic Invalidity Pension                    | 2,745     |
| Carer's Allowance                               | 1,662     |
| (d) Additional Pension for severely handicapped | 1,921     |
| (e) Basic Orphan's Pension                      |           |
| • Child under 15 years                          | 1,520     |
| • Child in full time education                  | 2,798     |

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the Cash Prize Scheme, rewarding sportsmen who have won a medal in a regional or an international event, being extended to artists receiving recognition by winning a medal in a regional or an international artistic and cultural competition. The SR Dance Co. Ltd., led by Mr Stephen Rolf Bongarçon, had won the Gold Medal in the Creative Dance discipline of the *Concours Culturels* of the Sixth Edition of the *Jeux de la Francophonie* held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 27 September to 6 October 2009.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the manual on good governance - "**Building Integrity – A Best Practice Guide for NGOs**" - prepared jointly by the NGO Trust Fund and the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The main objective of the Guide is to empower NGOs by –

- (a) promoting a culture of integrity;

- (b) inculcating the values of good governance; and
- (c) fostering professionalism with regard to operation and service delivery.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of measures taken by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit and the local authorities, to control noise pollution, viz. -

- (a) procurement of five sound level meters to effect noise monitoring exercises throughout the country; and
- (b) mounting of sensitization campaigns on noise pollution and procedures to make representations.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Environmental Health Engineering Unit of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has carried out 436 noise assessments during the period July to October 2009.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that Christmas would be celebrated at national level on 19 and 20 December 2009 at Flic-en-Flac. The programme would include a 10-minute play on "Nativité" and performances by the winner of the Christmas Song competition organized by the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture and renowned local and regional artists.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the commitments of Government for the disbursement of a grant amount of € 3 million by the European Commission under the Global Climate Change Alliance, an initiative to build a new alliance on climate change between the European Union and developing countries that are most affected and that have the least capacity to deal with climate change. The commitments include satisfactory progress in the implementation of the economic reform programme and of the measures to address weaknesses identified by the Public Expenditure and Financial Assessment Exercise, and in maintaining a policy of macroeconomic stability. The Energy Efficiency Bill and the New Building Control Bill would also have to be introduced into the National Assembly.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that, in view of the forthcoming rainy season, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, the Ministry of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands and the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit are arranging for the cleaning of drains, rivulets and rivers.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Principality of Monaco has agreed to renew the bilateral agreement providing for an exchange programme between students of Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval of the Industrial and Vocational Training Board and the Lycée Hôtelier de Monaco. The Exchange Programme would help students of Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval acquaint themselves with hospitality and restaurant services and management at international level.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius joining the Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Database Project, which is being implemented by the Oceanographic Research Institute of South Africa. The project aims at creating a database on fishery, i.e., catch, types of vessels, gear, species caught, etc., in each of the member countries, and providing information on the management and socio-economic status of stakeholders in the fisheries sector. A Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in the Project would be signed between the Oceanographic Research Institute and the Albion Fisheries Research Centre.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day commemorated on 5 December, viz. -

- (a) the official launching of the Non-State Actors Unit, which aims at building up a strong NGO Community through the training and the creation of a pool of volunteers to support the social development objectives of Government; and
- (b) award of certificates to 161 NGO volunteers, who have received training in Project Management, Fund Raising, Strategic Management, Counselling Skills and Communication Skills.

Cabinet has further taken note that MACOSS would organize a social programme at the State House, Le Reduit, on 4 December 2009 on the theme **'Volunteering for our Planet'**.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities commemorated on 3 December, viz. -

- (a) signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions and the Leonard Cheshire Disability, UK;

- (b) laying of the foundation stone of a Respite Care Centre at La Marie, Vacoas;
- (c) holding of a 'Foire Artisanale' at the NPF Esplanade in Port Louis by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board;
- (d) launching of a directory of emergency services and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Braille version;
- (e) holding of a training course in sign language interpretation by professionals from the Witwatersrand University of South Africa; and
- (f) provision of customized wheelchairs to children with severe disabilities.

The theme for this year is **“Making the Millennium Development Goals Inclusive: Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world”**.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to commemorate the World AIDS Day, observed on 1 December, viz. –

- (a) a national testing programme in line with this year's theme: **“Universal Access and Human Rights”**;
- (b) an exhibition to sensitize the public on risk behaviours for HIV and precautionary measures to be taken, as well as on information on access to treatment, antiretroviral drugs and adherence to drugs;
- (c) a bicycle caravan at Mahebourg with messages relating to HIV and AIDS;
- (d) opening of a National Day Care Centre for the Immunosuppressed at Victoria Hospital, Candos and Volcy Pougnet Community Health Centre, Port Louis; and
- (e) opening of a Methadone Day Care Centre at Mahebourg.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission would be held in Mauritius on 30 December 2009 to review the political situation in Madagascar and the fight against sea piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Cabinet has further taken note that, in the margins of the Meeting, France and Mauritius would sign the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security to Brussels where, in his capacity as ACP Ministerial Spokesperson on Sugar, he participated in the ACP Ministerial Consultations on Sugar. Issues pertaining to the following were discussed –

- (a) review of ACP Institutional Structures;
- (b) institutional and development aspects of commodity protocols in the revised Cotonou Agreement;
- (c) review of the Accompanying Measures Support Programme; and
- (d) ACP Sugar Research and Innovation Programme.

Following an intervention of the Ambassador of Mauritius on the Chagos Archipelago, the ACP Council of Ministers mandated the Committee of Ambassadors to prepare a draft ACP Declaration on the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago and discuss it with the EU side, in the context of ongoing negotiations of the second five-year review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, with a view to including it in the revised Agreement.

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16. Cabinet has taken note that the World Health Organisation would hold a Technical Workshop on Epidemiological Surveillance in Mauritius from 15 to 17 December 2009 with a view to -

- (a) following-up on discussions on the training for surveillance strategy held recently; and
- (b) assessing and determining how national institutions within the sub-region could contribute to the development of the Strategy.

About 25 participants from Comoros, Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles, Mauritius and WHO Regional Offices would attend the Workshop.

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17. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would promulgate the Medical Council (Medical Institutions) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2009 to provide for, inter alia, the renaming of **Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences, India** as **Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, India** and the inclusion of **Shri Ramachandra University, Tamil Nadu, India**, on the list of medical institutions recognised by the Medical Council of Mauritius.

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