

CABINET DECISIONS – 02 OCTOBER 2009

1. Cabinet has taken note that the typhoon, multiple earthquakes and the tsunami which struck the Asia Pacific region, viz., Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and the Samoan Islands, killed more than thousand people. Cabinet expresses its deep sympathy to the Governments and the people of these countries.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, on 10 October 2009, carry out vaccination against meningitis and seasonal flu, free of charge, in the five regional hospitals for Hadj Pilgrims.

3. Cabinet has taken note of measures taken by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to exercise strict control on food outlets. During the week, seven food retail outlets had been booked for malpractices and, at a warehouse, two lorries' load of diverse food items seized. Appropriate legal action would be initiated against the companies concerned.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the statue of Sir Gaëtan Duval, GCSK, QC, would be unveiled on Wednesday 7 October 2009 in the yard of the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill. The statue has been erected in memory of his contribution to the economic and political development of the country.

5. Cabinet has taken note of developments on the project aiming at removing barriers to energy efficiency implemented with the assistance of the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility. The project comprises drafting of legislation on energy efficiency, product labelling, development of standards and the setting up of an appropriate organizational structure to promote and facilitate national energy efficiency programmes. With a view to allowing consumers to benefit from energy efficient equipment, it is proposed to regulate the minimum performance standards of electrical appliances, such as freezers, stoves and ovens, washing machines, which are currently imported without any efficiency standards and labelling requirements.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of various projects for the mobilization of additional water resources to meet future demands, namely –

- (a) the construction of Bagatelle Dam and a dam at Rivière des Anguilles;
- (b) the construction of a new pumping station and a storage reservoir at Petite Rivière;
- (c) the rehabilitation and increasing the capacity of La Ferme Dam;
- (d) increasing the capacity of La Nicolière Reservoir; and
- (e) the drilling of boreholes at La Tour Koenig, Plein Bois, Happy Village, Solferino and Camp Auguste.

7. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the implementation of the Manufacturing and Services Development and Competitiveness Project, which aims at strengthening development and competitiveness of the Manufacturing and Services Sectors in Mauritius in line with Government's ongoing reform efforts to support the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs.

8. Cabinet has taken note that, in line with the Green School Project, the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit would implement the School Endemic Garden Initiative with a view to instructing children on how to prevent the degradation of biological diversity and developing horticultural skills.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, subsequent to the agreement of the Government of Mozambique to lease land to Mauritian investors for the cultivation of maize and other cereals, as well as for the implementation of non-agricultural projects, a Regional Development Company would be set up to act as facilitator to:

- (a) acquire agricultural lands in the region for projects related to food security and non-agricultural lands for the creation of development zones;
- (b) identify and motivate potential investors on projects related to the lands acquired; and
- (c) ensure compliance of agreements reached by all stakeholders taking into account the prevailing business ethics, laws and socio-cultural values of the host countries.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the seat of the COMESA Fund Infrastructure, a COMESA institution, would be located in Mauritius. The aim of the Fund is to support economic growth and integration in the member countries of COMESA, with priority focus on private sector investment in infrastructure, agriculture, food security and renewable energy. The Fund would also facilitate the private sector to invest in regional projects on a Public Private Partnership or purely private basis.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities organized by the Mauritius Post Ltd. to mark the World Post Day 2009, commemorated on 9 October, viz., –

- (a) the launching of First Day Cover on “Branding Mauritius” at the Postal Museum;
- (b) a sales exhibition of stamps on environment (fauna and flora);
- (c) free entrance for Mauritians at the Postal Museum on 9 and 10 October 2009;
- (d) promotion and talks on philately to school children;
- (e) an ICT awareness campaign at different Post Offices in collaboration with the National Computer Board; and
- (f) a blood donation on the 8 October 2009.

The theme adopted by the Universal Postal Union for World Post Day 2009 is "**A postal service committed to green growth**" to underline the growing importance of the Post in reducing carbon dioxide emission.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life proposes to organize to mark the World Mental Health Day, commemorated on 10 October, viz. –

- (a) a recreational day for mental health patients and their relatives at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre;
- (b) an exhibition on the creative activities carried out by patients at the Occupational Therapy Unit; and
- (c) the distribution of pamphlets on mental disorders to the community.

The theme chosen for this year by the World Federation for Mental Health is "**Mental Health in Primary Care: Enhancing Treatment and Promoting Mental Health**".

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life has approved of the Medical Council and the Dental Council promulgating the Medical Council (Registration of Registered Medical Practitioners) (Amendment) Regulations and the Dental Council (Registration of Registered Dental Surgeons and Dental Specialist) (Amendment) Regulations, respectively, to provide for a revision of the fees payable to the Councils.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life has approved of the Dental Council promulgating the Dental Council (Medical Institutions) (Amendment) Regulations to include the Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India, and the Mauras College of Dentistry, Mauritius, on the list of recognised medical institutions.
