

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 OCTOBER 2009

1. Cabinet has taken note that, with a view to palliating shortage of resources, particularly equipment and labour, affecting small and medium enterprises in the Sugar Sector, the Mauritius Sugar Authority has, from funds made available under the Stimulus Package, introduced a Finance Leasing Scheme to provide loans on soft terms to those enterprises for the acquisition of agricultural equipment and accessories. The Scheme would also encourage small and medium planters to regroup themselves into small and medium enterprises to benefit from the Scheme for the purchase of their own equipment.

2. Cabinet has taken note that HE Dr Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, would be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers in Mauritius on 2 November 2009.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases would be held from 12 to 14 November 2009 as a main event to mark the World Diabetes Day commemorated on 14 November 2009. Professor Jean Claude Mbanya, Chairperson of the International Diabetes Federation, would be one of the eminent Speakers at the Conference. The official and worldwide launching of activities to mark the celebration of the World Diabetes Day would be from the conference venue on 14 November 2009.

Cabinet has further taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day, viz. –

- (a) a television programme “Dossier” dedicated to the International Conference on Diabetes and Associated Diseases with the participation of high profile Speakers and Resource Persons;
- (b) the launching of a national campaign called “**Know Your Number**” (“KYN”) to raise awareness on the importance of maintaining waist to hip ratio and to sensitize on the risks of being obese and subject to cardiovascular diseases. During the campaign, waist measuring tapes and pamphlets would be distributed to 100,000 Mauritian families;
- (c) talks at regional levels and in Out-Patients Departments of Regional Hospitals with focus on –
 - (i) Prevention of complications from diabetes;
 - (ii) Control of diabetes and High Blood Pressure;
 - (iii) Healthy lifestyles;
 - (iv) Foot care; and
 - (v) Ill-effects of alcohol and tobacco consumption.

Cabinet has also taken note that, on the occasion, the Barclays Bank PLC would donate a fully-equipped mobile caravan to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to further strengthen the existing services for the screening of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, since 2007, more than 300 Mauritians have benefitted from the Circular Migration Programme. In view of the fact that the current recruitment process under the Programme is cumbersome, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment and the International Organisation for Migration would sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the launching of a Database and Application System, which would enable -

- (a) those interested in employment opportunities abroad to register online;
- (b) the setting up of a database of workers interested in employment abroad, particularly to facilitate the selection process; and
- (c) the reduction of overall costs and time required for selection.

The database would be used, for the first time, in the implementation of the French Circular Migration Programme. A comprehensive campaign would be mounted to sensitize the public on the Database and Application System.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Project Plan Committee, set up in February 2009 to provide a coordinated approach to investment planning by public bodies, has examined 104 project proposals and recommended 21 investment projects worth Rs 14.8 billion for inclusion in the project pipeline and 20 projects for feasibility study. The investment projects include -

- (a) the construction of Rivière des Anguilles Dam and associated conveyance pipeline works;
- (b) the setting up of a Marine Park Centre at the Blue Bay Marine Park;
- (c) the construction of a new hospital for ENT Centre;
- (d) the construction of a new Out-Patient Department and a Ward Block at Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital, Moka;
- (e) the construction of the East Coast Trunk Road;
- (f) the replacement of asbestos cement pipelines by the CWA; and
- (g) the acquisition of an Offshore Patrol Vessel and a weather radar.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Miss Pramila Patten as one of the three Members of the United Nations International Committee of Enquiry on the mass killing at Guinea Conakry.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Dental Council of Mauritius has registered 21 newly dental surgeons graduated from the Mauras College of Dentistry, Mauritius.

Cabinet has further taken note that, as regards graduates from the SSR Medical College (Dental Wing), the Dental Council of Mauritius has informed that it has recognized the degree awarded by the University of Mauritius and procedures are underway for the inclusion of the University of Mauritius in the recognized list of medical institutions by the Dental Council of Mauritius.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Coordination Committee at the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security to better coordinate the implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organisation, ensure that decisions and regulations related thereto are implemented in an informed, open and transparent manner in accordance with best international practices without jeopardizing economic efficiency, as well as to make recommendations on sanitary and phytosanitary measures to facilitate trade.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction into the National Assembly of the Food and Agricultural Research Council (Amendment) Bill, which, *inter alia*, provides for the setting up of Agricultural Youth Clubs and Agricultural Entrepreneur Clubs with a view to promoting and encouraging agricultural and agri-business development.

Cabinet has taken note that all the activities of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs have been integrated within the Agricultural Youth Clubs and Agricultural Entrepreneur Clubs set up by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Tourism Authority has suspended the licence of five restaurants for unhygienic conditions and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has issued a number of contraventions to food outlets.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the water supply situation islandwide and of the measures being taken to meet water demand till the end of the dry season, viz., –

- (a) adjustments depending on rainfall in the draw-off from the main reservoirs, namely, Mare aux Vacoas, La Nicolière, Piton du Milieu and water abstraction from boreholes, with consequential increase or decrease in hours of supply;
- (b) operation of stand-by sources from rivers and boreholes used for irrigation; and
- (c) enhancing the water tanker service to supply customers in the most affected areas.

Cabinet has further taken note that, as at 27 October 2009, the water level in our reservoirs were as follows:

Reservoir	Capacity(Mm³)	Actual Volume(Mm³)	%
Mare Aux Vacoas	25.89	20.07	77.5
La Nicolière	5.26	4.50	85.6
Piton du Milieu	2.99	2.33	77.9
La Ferme	11.52	9.97	86.5
Mare Longue	6.28	4.90	78.0
Midlands	25.50	23.44	91.9

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon Ms Jiang Li, Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China, would visit Mauritius from 11 to 14 November 2009 when she would, *inter alia*, sign a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at –

- (a) developing the legal and policy frameworks in the field of ageing and social development;
- (b) sharing information on experiences and techniques, as well as welfare facilities and services provided to the elderly people;
- (c) developing joint research and evaluation projects in the field of ageing and social development; and
- (d) strengthening capacity building of personnel in the field of elderly welfare and ageing services.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the First SADC Science, Engineering and Technology Week organized by the Ministry of Industry, Science and Research, in collaboration with SADC, from 22 to 25 October 2009, under the theme “**Harnessing Science and Technology for Socio-economic Development**”. The objective of the SADC Science, Engineering and Technology Week was to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of everyday use of science, engineering and technology towards the improvement of quality of life.

Cabinet has further taken note that –

- (a) the Regional Exhibition on Science and Technology, showcasing scientific and technological developments and technologies in the SADC region, attracted about 30,000 visitors;
- (b) 10 education-related institutions from Mauritius and 6 Universities from the Republic of South Africa and Namibia participated in the Science Education Fair, which aimed at creating awareness on science courses that these institutions offer at tertiary level; and
- (c) six round-tables were held during the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, which focused on climate change, renewable energy, satellite technology, telemedicine, agricultural science and technology, and space science and aircraft engineering. The Forum attracted more than 100 participants.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit from 22 to 23 October 2009 to New Delhi, India, where he participated in the Delhi High Level Conference on Climate Change Technology Development and Transfer. The Conference adopted the Delhi Statement on Global Cooperation on Climate Change, which highlights, *inter alia*, -

- (a) the necessity for rapid transfer of technology for addressing climate change;
- (b) that global cooperation mechanisms should enhance adaptation and development of technology;
- (c) that technology networks centres should be created to promote collaboration amongst governments, industries and research communities; and
- (d) the importance of periodic assessment of the diversity of technologies.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Industrial Property Tribunal with Miss Preety Sharmila Bhima, Barrister-at-Law, as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Medical Council of Mauritius.

Cabinet has further taken note that the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission has approved of the appointment of Dr P. Mohadeb as Executive Director of the Commission.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Civil Service Kermesse would be held on 8 November 2009 at Gymkhana, Vacoas.
