1. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would sign a Convention Cadre de Partenariat 2013-2016 with the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de la Réunion to further foster regional cooperation in the field of public health. The Convention covers training, capacity building and technical assistance in fields, such as Neurosurgery, Radiotherapy, Hyperbaric Medicine, Oncology, Nuclear Medicine (PETScan) and Paediatric Surgery.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India to further develop the state of health of the people of the two countries through joint efforts and encourage collaboration in areas, such as Medical Research in Clinical and Health Systems, Health Service Planning, Drugs and Pharmaceutical Products, Health Tourism, Telemedicine, Training in Vascular Surgery, Complex Retinal Surgery, Spinal Surgery, Midwifery, Podiatry/Diabetes Foot Care and Maintenance of Equipment.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the Best Mauritian Scientist Award 2013 by the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, in collaboration with the Mauritius Research Council. The objectives of the Award are, amongst others, to -

(a) promote science, quality research and technology;
(b) encourage participation in research of global importance;
(c) upgrade research competencies for a knowledge-based society; and
(d) encourage technological and scientific development and innovation.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People’s Republic of China to promote bilateral trade development and maintain the safety and quality of industrial products arising from the bilateral trade. Both countries would put up appropriate consultation mechanisms to ensure that industrial products traded are safe and of quality.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of an Inter-Agency Strategic Coordination Committee at the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives with a view to improving the outreach and quality of Business Development Services targeted to small and medium enterprises, and to better coordinate the activities of the support institutions towards the SMEs.

6. Cabinet has taken note that more than 1,800 pints of blood have been collected during the Mega Blood Donation organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, in collaboration with the Blood Donors’ Association, on 20 December 2012. The stock of blood would help cater
for the demand of blood during the end-of-the-year festive period and the current cyclonic period.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Valuation and Real Estate Consultancy Services, henceforth, carrying out valuation exercises for parastatal/statutory bodies and Government-owned companies, provided that such assignments are for public purposes or in the public interest. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development would charge an appropriate minimum fee for the assignments and the revenue accrued therefrom would be credited to the Consolidated Fund. Officers of the Valuation and Real Estate Consultancy Services are no longer authorized to undertake such assignments on a private basis.

8. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius contributing US$5,000 to the Special Fund created by UNESCO to support Mali for safeguarding its World Heritage Properties which have been affected by internal armed conflict.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources to the United Kingdom where he chaired the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Framework for Education and took part in a working session organized by the Cambridge International Examinations in Cambridge. The objective of the Commonwealth Ministerial Working Group was to develop recommendations for the structure and content of the post-Millennium Development Goals and post-Education For All goals in education-specific priority areas identified collectively by Ministers of Education, education organisations and the civil society.

In Cambridge, the Minister of Education and Human Resources had a working session with Ms Ann Puntis, CEO of Cambridge International Examinations, and Ms Jane Henry, Education Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean, with whom he discussed, amongst others, the introduction of Entrepreneurship Education as a subject at School Certificate and Higher School Certificate levels and the conduct of a Study on Gender Equality and Learning Outcomes, and capacity building in Leadership. The Cambridge University has agreed to assist the Ministry of Education and Human Resources in the conduct of the Study on Gender Equality and Learning Outcomes and the capacity building programme on Leadership.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Medical Council of Mauritius for the period 2013 to 2015.