

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 DECEMBER 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note, with sadness, the demise of Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa. Africa has lost one of the greatest son, a legendary freedom fighter, a great leader and a great statesman. Mandela would live as an inspiration for freedom fighters, an apostle of non-violence and a defender of universal rights. Mauritius recalls the visit of the great statesman in 1998. Government conveys its deepest condolences to the family and parents of Mr Mandela and to the Government of South Africa. The Mauritius Flag on all Government buildings would remain at half-mast from sunrise to sunset as from 6 December 2013 until the date of funeral of Mr Mandela.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of the National Energy Commission, chaired by Mr Dharam Dev Manraj, then Head, Project Management Delivery Unit, amongst others, to review the national energy requirements and advise Government and other authorities concerned in the planning and execution of major projects in the Energy Sector to fully meet medium and long terms needs. With a view to avoiding any power deficit, the main recommendations made by the Commission are –

- (a) further optimization of the maintenance schedule of the power plants; transition to and maximization of biomass and catering for peak demand by the commissioning of medium speed diesel engines; and
- (b) implementation of energy efficiency and demand side management projects, which according to the National Energy Commission, have a potential of saving of at least 30 MW at peak hours.

Some of the recommendations made by the Commission, namely the measures to avoid power deficit in the short term and energy efficiency measures, are already being implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, the Energy Efficiency Management Office and the Central Electricity Board. The Report of the National Energy Commission would be made public.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and The Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the National Assembly.

The Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill provides for the implementation of measures announced in Budget Speech 2014 relating to taxation and national finance, and for matters consequential or incidental thereto.

The Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill provides for the implementation of measures announced in Budget Speech 2014 relating to economic and financial matters and for other miscellaneous economic, financial and related measures.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Revenue and Valuation Appeal Tribunal (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill aims at amending The Revenue and Valuation Appeal Tribunal Act 2013 to provide for claims for compensation for the compulsory acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act being dealt with by the Tribunal instead of Boards of Assessment.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Copyright Bill in the National Assembly. The main objects of the Bill are, amongst others, to –

- (a) be compliant with the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonogram Treaty;
- (b) address the issues related to internet and piracy;
- (c) provide for the protection of performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations;
- (d) review the role and functions of the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA); and
- (e) provide for quick remedies to authors, composers and other copyright holders in cases of infringement of rights.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the guidelines that would be considered by the Tourism Authority for the issue of a Tourist Enterprise Licence for the operation of pubs and tables d'hôtes. The Tourism Authority would, amongst others, ensure that the building, fittings, fixtures, furnishings are in sound condition and fit for the purpose intended and the pubs and the tables d'hôtes are operating in safe, clean and hygienic conditions and providing service of high standard. The pubs would offer an additional night time to tourists and the tables d'hôtes an authentic culinary and cultural experience to our visitors.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would promulgate the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations to liberalize bunker trade as announced in Budget Speech 2014. The main objective is to allow oil companies based in Mauritius and engaged in bunker trade to charge more competitive prices for bunker fuels, thus enabling Port Louis to position itself as an attractive bunker port ahead of competing locations.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Oceanography Institute signing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in research and development in the field of oceanography with the Third Institute of Oceanography of the People's Republic of China. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for the necessary framework for collaboration in the following areas:

- (a) research on green and environmental-friendly marine biological culture techniques;
- (b) research on identification, isolation and purification of marine microform and microorganisms for searching for new bio-active materials for human consumption and medication; and
- (c) establishment of a laboratory alliance and organization of exchange visits.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports signing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of sports with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, amongst others, for the exchange of programmes, experiences, skills, techniques and informative documentation in the field of sports. The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping would promulgate the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council (Fees) Regulations to provide for the levying of fees by the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council to fulfill the requirements of the relevant sections of the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council Act 2013.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the proposed budget of the European Union for National Indicative Programme for the years 2014 to 2020 would focus mainly on the Tertiary Education Sector, including mainstreaming of primary and secondary education. The Education Sector was chosen in view of its capital importance and potential impact on increasing our capacity for development. The objectives that should be attained in the Sector, are, *inter alia*, –

- (a) improvement in equity of access to primary education;
- (b) improvement of the completion rate in secondary schools;
- (c) improvement in the quality of primary and secondary education;
- (d) widening access to tertiary education; and
- (e) ensuring the relevance of tertiary education programmes to economic and social needs of the country and the region.

12. Cabinet has taken note that, in line with the recommendations of the Report on the Study on Non-Tariff Barriers, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would promulgate the Consumer Protection (Export Control) (Amendment) Regulations to remove sugar confectioneries and products with sugar content, fruit juices, and non-alcoholic beverages (soft drinks) from the List of Controlled Goods requiring export permit to improve trade competitiveness.
