

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius ranks first in Sub-Saharan Africa and 45th in the world in the Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014 published by the World Economic Forum. The Global Competitiveness Report, the most comprehensive assessment of national competitiveness worldwide, assesses the competitiveness landscape of 148 economies providing insight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity. The policy initiatives taken into consideration are, amongst others, ease of access to finance, capacity for innovation, improvement in primary education enrolment, and annual percentage change in inflation. The Report has commented that Mauritius benefits from relatively strong and transparent public institutions with clear property rights, strong judicial independence and efficient government.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Research Council and the University of Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration in the field of diabetes research. The Memorandum of Understanding would provide, amongst others, a collaborative framework for the identification, formulation and undertaking of joint research programs in diabetes with particular emphasis on capacity building and society benefits; exchange of scientists, research workers, specialists and scholars, and sharing of facilities for research and development.

3. Cabinet has taken note of measures taken by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to tighten control on the proliferation of outlets purchasing second-hand jewellery. It has also been decided that all forms of advertising, promotion and sponsorship associated with the purchase of second-hand jewellery by dealers would be banned; the dealers would be reclassified and the registration fee reviewed.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the project proposal of the Cin-Gin Group of China to develop the Mauritius Jinfei Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. The proposal relates to the development of a mixed use project, Eden Square, comprising office buildings, an exhibition centre, two business hotels and a national culture park. The Cin-Gin Group, incorporated in China in 2006 with a registered capital of RMB100 million (around USD16 million), is involved in a number of property development projects across China and overseas.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the National Transport Authority (NTA) allocating personalized registration marks to owners of motor vehicles against payment of an appropriate fee. The registration mark would comprise a combination of letters and figures. The NTA would make regulations to safeguard against offensive messages.

6. Cabinet has taken note of a project proposal for the production of electricity with solid waste using the Ultra-High Temperature Gasification, a carbon-neutral concept, i.e., a zero-emission technology based on the distillation of waste at very high temperatures under an oxygen-free atmosphere. The company would use 500 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to produce 35 MW on a 24-hour basis.

7. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made to relocate the families, who are occupying land at Tranquebar on the alignment of the Ring Road project (Phase II), to Pointe aux Sables.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment would promulgate the Occupational Safety and Health (Ship Construction and Ship Repairs) Regulations to further protect employees who are called upon to perform work during ship construction, ship repairs in a dry dock and in a shipyard and ship repairs in a shed and/or in a wharf, as these activities carry a high level of risks to the safety and health of employees.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Commonwealth of Learning would hold its Academic Board Meeting and its Executive Governing Board Meeting in Mauritius on 26 and 27 September 2013 respectively. The Commonwealth of Learning is an intergovernmental organisation that encourages the development and sharing of open learning/distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. The main objective of the Meetings would be to review the Commonwealth Executive MBA and the Commonwealth Executive Masters in Public Administration, which are, from 2002 being offered in Commonwealth countries through 10 partner institutions, including the Open University of Mauritius. Around 35 delegates, mainly Heads of Universities, from Commonwealth countries would attend the Meetings.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism and Leisure to Mumbai, Shanghai and Beijing at the head of a public and private sector delegation. The focus of the mission was on interaction with the Travel Trade, Media, Wedding Planners and niche Indian Audience. In Mumbai, a Conference, attended by some 50 trade professionals, provided an excellent forum to expand and highlight the diverse product offering of the destination within the Travel Trade Fraternity and other key stakeholders in India. In Shanghai, some 54 trade professionals, including the main Chinese Travel agents attended a Trade Show and in Beijing, a round table with trade partners and media interviews was held.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to Izmir, Republic of Turkey, in the context of the 82nd Izmir International Fair, the oldest trade show in Turkey that brings together over 1,200 world class exhibitors to showcase their “savoir faire”. The theme of the 82nd Izmir International Fair was Health.

In the margins of the mission, the delegation led by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, had meetings with Mr Ekrem Demirtas, Chairperson of the Izmir Chamber of Commerce, Mr Halil Güvener, Chairperson of AGC, a group which is engaged in making fruit juices, in real estate, trading and tourism, and the Izmir Association of Young Businessmen which is interested in doing business in Africa.

12. Cabinet has taken note that Professor A.K. Bakshi, an indian national, has been appointed as Executive Director of the Tertiary Education Commission. Professor Bakshi is the Vice-Chancellor of the U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University and has occupied the posts, amongst others, of Director of the Institute of Lifelong Learning of the Delhi University and Director of the Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the Bhojpuri Speaking Union with Dr Mrs Sarita Boodhoo as Chairperson.
