

CABINET DECISIONS – 19 JULY 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Strategy Paper for the Construction Industry. The main recommendations are -

- (a) the conduct of a comprehensive study to determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the industry to enable the formulation of strategies for its development;
- (b) registration of consultants and contractors to enable the proper grading of contractors;
- (c) restriction on the importation of foreign labour;
- (d) developing an appropriate human resource development strategy; and
- (e) review of the National Development Strategy and Land Use Policy and Guidelines, as well as the Regional Outline Schemes.

2. Cabinet has agreed to Monneron State Secondary School being named after late Abdul Hamid Goolam Mahomed Issac, also known as Gorah Issac. Mr Issac was Municipal Councillor from 1951 to 1953 and was an elected member of the Legislative Assembly from 1959 to 1963. During his mandate, he fought, *inter alia*, for the inclusion of Urdu and other oriental languages at the Cambridge and London University Examinations. He presented motions in the Legislative Assembly for sustaining private colleges and madrassas so that they could operate in a more efficacious way. Mr Issac devoted much of his time to the education of the youth, providing free coaching to students who could not afford to pay tuition fees, and also contributed to the propagation of academic and Islamic education. He also authored two books of short stories which highlighted the cultural backgrounds of the different ethnic groups in Mauritius.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the measures taken by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to assist Hadj pilgrims who would proceed to Saudi Arabia in September 2013. Taking into consideration the prevalence of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection that has caused severe human infections resulting in high mortality and demonstrated the ability to be transmitted amongst humans, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would carry out a sensitization campaign on additional measures that should be taken by the pilgrims. The Ministry would also conduct vaccination of pilgrims against meningitis A C Y W 135, free of cost.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization for the modernization of the Industrial Property Office Business Services. The World Intellectual Property Organization would provide the necessary technical services in preparing automation strategic plans, simplification of business procedures, and advice and guidance to assist the Office in delivering consistent, appropriate and high quality services.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Fisheries and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Seafood Safety. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, amongst others, for improved safety in relation to aquatic products exported to the People's Republic of China.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the National Women's Council, a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, and the All-China Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China would sign a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance mutual understanding and friendship, develop cooperation, and promote the common goals of gender equality and women's advancement.

7. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has signed the Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities that provides a framework to facilitate the availability of published works, in accessible format copies, to persons with visual impairments or with print disabilities. The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has set up a committee that would advise on appropriate arrangements that should be made for the implementation of the Treaty.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the visit of Dr Shukuru Kawambwa, Minister of Education and Vocational Training of the United Republic of Tanzania, from 11 to 15 July 2013. The Minister of Education and Vocational Training and the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing for the exchange of students and academics, joint research projects, collaboration between universities, facilitation of recognition of qualifications and exchange of information on the national qualifications framework. The Minister also had working sessions, amongst others, with the heads of tertiary education institutions, the Tertiary Education Commission, the Open University and the Board of Investment. He has signified his intention to take advantage of the Scholarships offered by Government to African countries.

9. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius depositing the Instrument of Acceptance on the amendment to the Kyoto Protocol with the Secretary General of the United Nations. Amendments were brought to the Protocol during the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2012. The Kyoto Protocol is the only legally binding instrument under the UNFCCC that requires Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to take legally binding commitment to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The first commitment period, which started in January 2008, expired on 31 December 2012. The amended Kyoto Protocol would lead to the second commitment period and enter into force when three quarters of the 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol would have deposited their Instrument of Acceptance to the Amendment.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions would launch the Training Programme for Informal Carers on 25 July 2013. The Training Programme aims at training a pool of carers with a view to providing better care to the elderly and disabled persons as announced in Government Programme 2010-2015. To date, some 119 carers have been trained.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee Meeting on Trade, Finance, Customs, Economic Matters and Home/Internal Affairs held in Mauritius on 10 July 2013. The Ministerial Committee took note of the slow progress in the tripartite trade negotiations and requested Member States to prepare their tariff offers for initial negotiations and eventual liberalization at the entry into force of the Tripartite Free Trade Area on 1 January 2015. The Experts Meeting on the Tripartite Industrial Pillar, the first technical meeting on the pillar, aimed at addressing the supply side and productive capacity constraints of the Member States and, amongst others, approved the establishment of a Technical Committee on Industrial Development to finalize the draft Work Programme and Roadmap for the Tripartite Pillar on Industrial Development.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the 28th Experts and Ministerial Meeting of the *Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien* (CJSOI) would be held in Mauritius from 7 to 10 August 2013. The Meeting would take cognizance of the outcome of the activities organized by the CJSOI during the period January to July 2013, and examine the programme of activities for the year 2014 and the organization of the 10th Edition of the CJSOI Games by Mayotte. The 9th Edition of the CJSOI Games would be held in Djibouti in 2014.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment to Mozambique where he attended the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa Ministerial Meeting. The theme of the Meeting was “*Favoriser la migration intra-régionale du travail et de la gestion de la migration dans la région de la SADC*”. The main objective of the Meeting was to foster dialogue on migration issues, particularly at regional level, so that Member States can work together to derive maximum benefits from migration.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Mauritius Sports Council with Mr Luxmi Narrain (Kris) Appadoo as Chairperson; and
- (b) the National Committee of the National Women’s Council with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare as Chairperson.
