

CABINET DECISIONS –08 MARCH 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Council has selected two young Mauritian researchers, namely Miss Naziah Bibi Jaufeerally, MPhil/Phd student at the University of Mauritius, and Miss Aazraa Oumayyah Pankan, MEng in Chemical Engineering student at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia, to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting on Chemistry to be held from 30 June to 05 July 2013 in Lindau, Germany.

Following a proposal of Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, Professor Robert Huber, Nobel Prize Winner, had agreed to Mauritius sending young researchers to the Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting which aims at bringing together young scientists from all over the world to meet and interact with Nobel Laureates. The Meeting is inspired by the guiding principle Educate. Inspire. Connect. and focuses alternately on a different discipline.

2. Cabinet has taken note that a Bilateral Air Services Agreement has been signed between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Maldives. The Agreement provides, amongst others, for the designated airlines of Maldives, i.e., the Island Aviation Services Ltd (Maldives) and the Mega Global Air Services (Maldives) pvt. Ltd (Mega Maldives), and Air Mauritius to operate seven frequencies weekly in each direction and on specified routes; and the designated airlines to exercise fifth freedom traffic rights on agreed routes to a maximum of two frequencies weekly, i.e., for Maldives, between points in Maldives and Beijing as the intermediate and beyond points, and for Mauritius between Mauritius and Seychelles as intermediate point and between Mauritius and any one point in Asia as beyond point.

3. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Ministry of Housing and Lands to put up about 1,600 housing units and 474 serviced lots in different regions of the country. The projects would cost more than Rs2.1 billion. The Ministry of Housing and Lands has also made arrangements to rehabilitate existing infrastructure within various NHDC housing estates to the tune of about Rs400 million.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Teaching Eye Surgery Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland, would sign a Memorandum of Understanding providing for collaboration and capacity building for surgeons, doctors and nurses in the field of ophthalmology. The Foundation has donated an Ultra Sound Machine and an Optical Coherence Tomography Machine of a total value of more than Rs5.5m.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment would promulgate the Occupational Safety and Health (Work at Height)

Regulations to provide, inter alia, for the safety and health of, and to prevent accidents and bodily injuries to employees working at heights. The regulations also provide for the proper planning, selection of appropriate equipment, training, and supervision by competent persons of employees working at heights.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the first inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage,

prepared by the National Heritage Fund in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, for submission to UNESCO for inclusion in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In line with the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage, States Parties are obliged to submit inventories of the Intangible Cultural Heritage present in their territories. One hundred and seventeen elements have, in a first stage, been identified to form part of the inventory and classified under the following five domains -

- (a) Oral traditions and expressions;
 - (b) Performing arts;
 - (c) Social practices, rituals, and festive events;
 - (d) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe; and
 - (e) Traditional craftsmanship and occupations.
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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Textiles of the Republic of India, proposes to develop a Driving Industry towards Sustainable Human Capital Advancement Programme for export-oriented clothing enterprises in Mauritius. The Programme is a process-based code aimed at supporting clothing factories to establish and implement social and environmental policies and principles, and to attain a competitive edge in the global market.

8 Cabinet has taken note that, to date, 15 public sector laboratories have been

accredited by the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS). Recognition is granted after a laboratory has demonstrated that it meets all the requirements set out in the international standard ISO/IEC 17025, a standard used worldwide for the assessment of laboratories. The World Trade Organisation recognises accreditation as a tool to minimise Technical Barriers to Trade and facilitate trade.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Outline Planning Schemes of the areas under the jurisdiction of the Municipal City Council of Port Louis and the four Municipal Town Councils would be reviewed. The main objectives of the Outline Planning Schemes are to plan future development in a clustered way around strategic nodes, such as town centres and urban expansion zones, build towns that are energy efficient, economical in terms of transport infrastructure and utilities, and make optimal use of available land.

10 Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius ratifying the Amendment to Article XII(c)(ii) of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ITSO) Agreement adopted by the ITSO Assembly of Parties in March 2007. The Amendment clarifies the status of Parties Common Heritage orbital locations, resources and associated frequency assignments to enable the Organisation to ensure that selected entities, which use and would use the Parties Common Heritage, fulfil the Core Principles of the ITSO Agreement. The ITSO, an inter-governmental organisation previously known as the INTELSAT, ensures that communications by means of satellites are available to all nations on a global and non-discriminatory basis.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the slaughter and the transport fees levied by the Mauritius Meat Authority being increased by 10% for cattle, goat, sheep and venison, and 5% for pork to enable the Authority to meet increase in costs. The fees were last revised in 2007. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security would, shortly, put up a modern slaughter house which would meet both the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and EU Norms, and be equipped with cold chain/chilled room facilities and powered tools.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to Spain where he participated in the Global System for Mobile Communications Association Ministerial Programme held in the context of the Mobile World Congress. The Congress, the largest annual event in the mobile industry, discussed important initiatives for the benefit of the industry,

including Mobile Cloud, Mobile Money and Green Technology, and provided essential insights on latest technological developments, market opportunities, next-generation services, and devices which are shaping mobile communications.

In the margins of the Congress, the Minister of Information and Communication

Technology had bilateral meetings, amongst others, with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu on investment in the telecommunication sector in the Republic of Vanuatu; Mrs Suvi Linden, former Minister of ICT of Finland, and Ms Chris Perera, Senior Director, Spectrum Policy and Regulatory Affairs for the Asia Pacific Region, GSMA, on the issue of Digital Migration.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Small Farmers Welfare Fund Board with Mr Kreepaloo Sunghoon as Chairperson.
