

CABINET DECISIONS – 12 APRIL 2013

1. In line with Government Programme 2012-2015, Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill, amongst others, makes better provision for citizen's constitutional rights to liberty, protection of property, freedom of movement and protection of law, regulates the exercise of police officers of the powers to stop, enter, seize, arrest and detain, and the treatment and questioning of detainees, amends certain provisions relating to evidence in criminal proceedings, and increases the penalty for non-attendance of witnesses.

2. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the ICT Authority to increase the bandwidth capacity in Rodrigues to 155 Mbps, as from 30 June 2013, as announced in Budget 2013. Although the bandwidth in Rodrigues has been gradually increased from 8 Mbps in 2010 to 37 Mbps in June 2012, the capacity is still on the low side to allow for the development of ICT sector. The increase in the bandwidth capacity to 155 Mbps would enable the provision of voice, data and video communication services.

3. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the provision of Tablet Computers to Form IV students as announced in Budget 2013. State Secondary Schools would be connected with fibre optics and provided with Wi-Fi hotspots, and the network Infrastructure at the Government Online Centre would be upgraded for the successful implementation of the project.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Project Plan Committee has recommended 14 projects, to the tune of Rs1.2 billion, for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme, namely construction of desalination plants and track roads in Rodrigues; transfer of water from Midlands Dam to Camp Fouquereaux, Côte d'Or and Alma regions; upgrading of the Intensive Care Unit of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital; replacement of the Linear Accelerator and CT Simulator; and construction of a Special Education Needs Development and Resource Centre at R. Gujadhur Government School, Central Flacq.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Monetary Fund for the establishment of the Africa Training Institute in Mauritius. The setting up of the Institute would further consolidate the position of Mauritius as a knowledge hub for the region. The activity of the Africa Training Institute would complement those of the AFRITAC South which is also hosted in Mauritius.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the digitization of the National Archives through an Electronic Archives System. Phase I of the project comprised scanning, indexing, and uploading of documents and records relating to slavery and indentureship dating back to the 17th century. The documents could be accessed on the website of the National Archives which would be launched shortly. Phase II of the project would comprise the loading of some 600,000 documents on Indenture Immigration.

7. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Attorney General's Office to revise, consolidate and publish the Subsidiary Legislation, i.e., regulations, of Mauritius. The Subsidiary Legislation was last published in 1998.

8. Cabinet has taken note that during the telethon organised on 6 April 2013 to assist victims of the recent flood, an amount of Rs3,457,031.18 was collected. The amount would be credited into the account of the Prime Minister's Relief and Support Fund.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, 91,759 tourists visited Mauritius in March 2013 as compared to 83,827 in March 2012, i.e., an increase of 9.5%. Increase had been recorded from the regional markets (+26%); emerging markets, such as China (+68.6%), and Europe (+1.7%). Tourist arrivals for the period January to March 2013 were 265,838 as compared to 261,995 for the corresponding period in 2012, i.e., an increase of 1.5%.

10. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of the African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) on 25 May 2013, namely talks and forums on the OAU/AU, exhibition of panels of African Natural and Heritage Sites, films screening on Africa, African figures and history of Africa, and issue of commemorative stamps. The 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union has declared 2013 as the **Year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance**.

11. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized to mark the Earth Day, commemorated on 22 April, namely tree planting campaign in all primary and secondary schools, creation of a "tree bank" at Ebène, embellishment of Poudre d'Or Hamlet Village, organization of nature discovery tours and sensitization campaigns on climate change. This year's theme is **The face of climate change**, selected in recognition to the unprecedented impacts of climate change leading to occurrences of extreme weather events, loss of species and rise of sea level associated with coastal inundation and erosion.

12. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized in connection with the International Day for Monuments and Sites, commemorated on 18 April. The activities include unveiling of sculpture of the International Slave Route Monument at Le Morne, a Treasure Hunt, Open Days at the State House, the Clarisse House, the Postal Museum, the Frederik Hendrik Museum, the National History Museum, the Natural History Museum and the SSR Memorial Centre for Culture.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre would organize Science Weeks in Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Bambous, Curepipe, Triolet, Savanne, Moka, Port Louis and Rodrigues, to sensitize, particularly youth, on the importance of science and technology and develop creativity and innovation.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the twinning project between the District Council of Flacq and the Yiwu Municipal People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The twinning agreement would enable exchange in the fields of sports, culture and education; promote the transfer of technologies to the SME's; and investment in segregation of wastes.

15. Cabinet has taken note that, Mr Robin Gopee, Director, Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) has been elected as Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation for the period 2013-2015. The main objectives of the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation are, *inter alia*, to facilitate the implementation of effective collaboration amongst accreditation bodies and any other institutions dealing with accreditation in the region and coordinate SADC projects on accreditation to facilitate capacity development in the region in the field of accreditation.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Valuation Tribunal with Mrs Kesnaytee Bissoonauth, Magistrate Intermediate Court as Chairperson.
