

CABINET DECISIONS – 19 APRIL 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the review of the measures that were taken to control imports from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011. As from April 2013, importers of second-hand motor vehicles and second-hand motor vehicle spare parts would no longer be required to –

- (a) carry out the pre-shipment inspection;
- (b) furnish the Certificate of Conformity for radioactive contamination; and
- (c) submit the bank guarantee.

Moreover, second-hand motor vehicles and second-hand motor vehicle spare parts would no longer be inspected by the Radiation Protection Authority prior to customs clearance. However, as regards second-hand motor vehicles and second-hand motor vehicle spare parts, the Radiation Protection Authority would continue to monitor the situation, including through random inspection.

Cabinet has also agreed to all consignments of foodstuffs and agricultural commodities imported from Japan continued to be tested for radioactive contamination prior to customs clearance.

2. Cabinet has taken note that, following representations received regarding the quality of Internet services, particularly with regard to speed, the ICT Authority is setting up a National Quality of Service Framework for Broadband Internet Services to better monitor the quality of services offered by Internet Service Providers. The development of the Framework would, amongst others, enable –

- (a) operators to determine their service levels and subsequently plan their network investment and capacity requirements; and
- (b) consumers to know whether they are receiving value for money.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Fashion and Design Institute (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The objects of the Bill are, amongst others, to amend the Fashion and Design Institute Act to empower the Fashion and Design Institute to award certificates, diplomas, degrees, honorary degrees and other academic or professional qualifications, and align the objects, functions and powers of the Institute with those of the other tertiary education institutions in Mauritius.

4. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius ranks first in Sub-Saharan African region in the Network Readiness Index of the World Economic Forum. The Network Readiness Index comprises the following sub-indices:

- (a) Environment sub-index (Political and regulatory environment, Business and innovation environment);
- (b) Readiness sub-index (Infrastructure and digital content, Affordability, Skills);
- (c) Usage sub-index (Individual usage, Business usage, Government usage); and
- (d) Impact sub-index (Economic impacts, Social impacts).

5. Cabinet has taken note that the European Parliament has endorsed the Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Protocol signed with the European Commission in February 2012. The Agreement establishes the principles, rules and procedures governing, amongst others, the economic, financial, technical and scientific cooperation in the Fisheries Sector, the conditions governing access by EU fishing vessels to the fishing zone of Mauritius, and partnership between operators aimed at developing economic activities in the Sector. The Agreement, which is for a period of three years and renewable thereafter, provides for a total financial contribution of Euro 1,980,000.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, following the detection of a fruit fly species belonging to the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex, in a fruit fly trap in the north of the country, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has declared Labourdonnais and Trou aux Biches as pest quarantine areas. The fruit fly pest, which has also been reported in the Indian Ocean Region, namely Comoros Islands, Madagascar and certain districts of South Africa, attacks a wide range of fruits, including banana, breadfruit, litchi, mango, guava and pineapple, and vegetables, namely tomato, chilly, cucumber, pumpkin, brinjal and squash. The Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has already embarked on an eradication campaign to protect fruits and vegetables.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency Second Project Coordination Meeting for Finalization of the Common Protocol and Modalities for Management of Fruit Flies would be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 June 2013. The project is being implemented under the Project RAF 5062 - Preventing the Introduction of Exotic Fruit Fly Species and Implementing the Control of Existing Species with the Sterile Insect Technique and Other Suppression Methods. The objectives of the Meeting are to:

- (i) finalize the Common Emergency Action Plan for exotic fruit flies;
- (ii) review the project activities schedule and implementation arrangements; and
- (iii) finalize the modalities to strengthen sub-regional cooperation for preventing the invasion of exotic fruit fly species and improving the control of existing species.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, in collaboration with the Blind People's Association of India, would organize a Leadership Training Programme for Women with Disabilities from 24 to 26 April 2013. The objectives of the Programme are to train members of the Forum of Women with Disabilities, set up by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, in the field of disability and on the role of women with disabilities in a modern society.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the World Intellectual Property Day, commemorated on 26 April, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, in collaboration with the National Computer Board, would organise a Workshop on "Intellectual Property and Software" in Mauritius on 25 and 26 April 2013. The main objective of the Workshop is to familiarise IT professionals and software developers with the major forms of Intellectual Property Rights and Intellectual Property issues associated with software and computer programmes, trends and prospects. The theme for this year's World Intellectual Property Day is **Creativity, the next generation**.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the First IOR-ARC Economic and Business Ministerial Conference would be held in Mauritius on 4 and 5 July 2013. The objectives of the Conference are to enhance investment and trade cooperation, and strengthen business opportunities within the IOR-ARC region. The Ministerial Conference would be preceded by a Joint Public Private Sector Dialogue on Business Facilitation, and include a Business Meeting.
