

CABINET DECISIONS – 24 MAY 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note of transport problems encountered by students and invited the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to review the allocation of school buses, taking into consideration the security and the increase in the number of students.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Sugar Industry Efficiency (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The objective of the Bill is to amend the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act to -

- (a) extend incentives presently applicable to VRS projects and ERS projects;
- (b) extend the definition of “*métayer*” to include a person who has been cultivating cane on land leased from the planter for a consecutive period of 3 crop cycles;
- (c) make better provision to prevent speculation of agricultural land by including agricultural morcellements in the definition of “agricultural land”;
- (d) review the components of expenditure for recouping costs in relation to the implementation of the VRS, the ERS and factory closure; and
- (e) provide that land has to be developed within five years of the issue of a Land Conversion Permit.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service Bill in the National Assembly. The main objects of the Bill are to provide for the setting up of the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service, make better provision for the prevention of and response to fires and other events likely to endanger the life of persons, animals, property or the environment, and enhance coordination and harmonise working relationships among emergency organisations.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the measures being initiated for the reduction of non-revenue water in the Upper Mare aux Vacoas Supply System. The scope of work would comprise the establishment of a baseline data on non-revenue water, the replacement of priority pipes, repairs/modifications to the network and meters, the implementation of telemetry for optimum operation of the water supply system and the automation of functions, where possible.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an Agreement between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Mauritius to regulate the employment of Mauritian nationals there. The State of Qatar has agreed to recruit higher skilled workers and professionals, namely medical practitioners, para-medical staff, accountants, and lawyers, amongst others.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with e-Mudra, an Indian company as a Foreign Certification Authority, would organize a Knowledge Series Workshop on the theme **Understanding Public Key Infrastructure Technology – For a Trusted Cyber Security and Digital Signatures**. The objective of the Workshop is to address the knowledge needs of stakeholders to help build the urgent ecosystem for the successful implementation of the e-Government initiative.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of Mauritian athletes in the 19th Edition of Wako World Cup Kickboxing held in Hungary where Mauritius won five medals as follows –

(i) **Gold**

Fabrice Bauluck (-54 kg)
Burtlan Simiss (-51 kg)

(ii) **Silver**

Facson Perrine (-63,5 kg)

(iii) **Bronze**

Ketty Rousseau (-56 kg)
Fanfan Nagamah (-54 kg)

8. Cabinet has taken note of the 2012 Report on “Statistics in Mauritius: a Gender Approach”. The Report presents sex disaggregated data for the year 2011 collected on the demographic characteristics, health, education, employment, persons with disabilities and children. In 2011, Mauritius ranked 63rd out of 146 countries with a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.35. The Gender Inequality Index is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three fields, namely reproductive health, empowerment and labour market.

9. Cabinet has taken note that a Meeting of a Team of Experts of the World Meteorological Organization on User Needs in Reducing the Impacts of Hydrometeorological Hazards would be held in Mauritius from 16 to 20 September 2013. The Team of Experts, which has been appointed by the World Meteorological Organization to advance the skills and capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for disaster prevention and mitigation, would review progress in the implementation of the recommendations made at its last meeting held in October 2011, and prepare a work plan to strengthen the capacity and skills of Member States for better delivery of comprehensive weather services, with a particular emphasis on public safety and welfare.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Committee under the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region and the EU held in Mauritius on 14 and 15 May 2013. The Committee, amongst others, underlined the importance of exchanging information in respect of tariff reduction and modification of the Harmonised System and agreed that they will regularly consult on EU's regulations and decisions affecting ESA's competitiveness and to establish an EPA fund.

At the Meeting, the EU has agreed to grant an additional derogation for 2,000 tonnes of preserved tuna to Mauritius for a one-year period following an official request made to the EU in February 2013. The 2,000 tonnes will be in addition to the 3,000 tonnes which Mauritius benefits on a yearly basis under the automatic derogation.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment to Abu Dhabi and Dubai where he participated in a Conference on **Labour Mobility - Enabler for Sustainable Development**. The aim of the Conference was to stimulate regional interest and engagement in the global dialogue on migration and development. In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had discussions, amongst others, with HE Saqr Ghobash, UAE Minister of Labour, and HE Nasser Abdullah bin Alhumidi, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the State of Qatar, on employment opportunities for high-end skilled workers and professionals, i.e., medical doctors, accountants, law officers.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to Reunion Island. The objectives of the visit were to further collaboration with the relevant authorities and share experiences with institutions providing care and support to persons with disabilities, the elderly and juvenile offenders. During the visit, the Minister met the Préfet, the President of the Conseil Régional and the President of the Conseil Général of Reunion Island, with whom she shared experiences mainly in the fields of social assistance and support to vulnerable groups.
