

CABINET DECISIONS – 26 JULY 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Mauritius Light Rapid Transit Project. The project aims at solving traffic congestion problems, providing an efficient and quality public transport system, improving mobility within the urban areas and encouraging the mode shift from private to public transport. The first phase of the project would be implemented from Port Louis to Curepipe as an alternative mode of transport.

2. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made to connect Rodrigues to a submarine fibre optic cable as enunciated in Government Programme 2012-2015. Telecommunication services, particularly internet connectivity, are currently poor in Rodrigues with a connection of only 37 Mbps through satellite. The connection of Rodrigues to high telecommunications bandwidth would reduce the cost of doing business, increase investment, stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and provide improved ICT broadband facilities.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, with a view to boosting up the Cooperative Sector, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives has made arrangements with the Mauritius Post and Co-operative Bank (MPCB) Ltd. for the operation of loan schemes to finance projects of cooperative societies. The loan schemes, namely the Cooperative Development Fund Incentive Scheme, the Special Scheme for Cooperative Credit Unions and the Special Scheme for Fishermen Cooperative Societies, would be operational for an initial period of one year and the interest rate would be 7.25% per annum, i.e., 5% chargeable to the borrower cooperative society and 2.25% to the Cooperative Development Fund.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the programme of activities that would be organized to celebrate Eid-UI-Fitr at national level, namely –

- (a) an Eid Fair on 18 August 2013 at the Islamic Cultural Centre, Port Louis, comprising fun games, horse riding and jumping castle, display and sale of delicacies, gifts, books, CDs, perfumes and souvenirs, mehendi application and Islamic calligraphy;
- (b) a Naat and Anasheed Recital by winners of Aqueedat Ke Phool Naat Competition held over the past three years;
- (c) distribution of Eid hampers to the poor and needy; and
- (d) a lunch to inmates of orphanages and centres for the disabled.

5. Taking into consideration the financial situation of bus companies and the recent salary increase granted to employees of the Transport Sector, Cabinet has agreed to an increase of 12% in bus fares as from 1 August 2013. Pensioners, disabled persons and students would not be affected by the increase.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, *l'Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Marseille* and *AIX Marseille Université* would sign a Memorandum of Understanding that provides for collaboration and capacity building for the management of renal diseases and, in particular, renal transplantation. The institutions would also assist in the implementation of a policy for the prevention and early detection of chronic kidney disease, and the building up on the legal and ethical framework, as well as the formulation of regulations on organ transplantation.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon Kavuru Samba Siva Rao, Union Minister of Textiles of the Republic of India, would visit Mauritius from 2 to 4 September 2013. He would lead a business delegation and have discussions on the implementation of measures provided in the various Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Republic of India. He would launch the Guidance Document for the Driving Industry Towards Sustainable Human Capital Advancement (DISHA) Mauritius Programme for export-oriented clothing enterprises in Mauritius. The delegation would also visit the Mauritius Standards Bureau and the Fashion and Design Institute and participate in a conference on emerging textiles products, such as technical textiles, geo textiles and medical textiles.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the publication of a *Report on Food Security - The Challenges for Mauritius* by the National Economic and Social Council. The Report examines the current situation with regard to various categories of food crops and highlights the different measures put in place to increase local production for self-sufficiency, consolidate the Milk Sector and increase local seed production capacity.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector for the period January to June 2013, as compared to the corresponding period in 2012. The value of exports increased from Rs22.49 billion to Rs23.17 billion, i.e., by 3.0%. Increase was recorded in the value of exports of Jewellery and Pearls, Precious & Semi-precious Stones (+8.4%); Textile Yarns and Fabrics (+17.3%); Manufactured Goods, e.g., medical devices (+5.5%); and Textile and Clothing Sub-sector (+0.1%).

10. Cabinet has taken note of assistance provided by the National Empowerment Foundation to rehabilitate vulnerable families living at Balisage Road, Roche Bois, namely provision of school materials, including shoes, school uniforms, bags and stationery to children of the 102 vulnerable families in the region.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of –

- (a) the Building Control Advisory Council with Mr Raj Servansingh, Registered Professional Engineer and Managing Director and founder partner of Servansingh Jadav & Partners Consulting Engineers Ltd, as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Board of the Mauritius Land Transport Authority with Mr Serge Petit as Chairperson.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Civil Service Kermesse, organised by the Public Officers' Welfare Council, would be held on 10 November 2013 at Gymkhana, Vacoas.
