

CABINET DECISIONS – 28 JUNE 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Civil Establishment (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill makes better provision for the coming into operation of the Civil Establishment Order in respect of posts in the public service. The Civil Establishment Order, made by the President of the Republic, establishes offices in the public service, determines the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices and the emoluments attached to such offices.

2. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the implementation of the Light Rail Transit Project, and of the recommendations of the High-Powered Committee, set up under the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, as amended, chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service and comprising the Solicitor General and the Financial Secretary.

Cabinet has agreed to the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise being appointed to carry out Stage 2 consultancy services for the implementation of the project. The main tasks that would be delivered under Stage 2 consultancy, include project set up, market sounding, procurement strategy development, planning and preparation, as well as Request for Proposal receipt, evaluation and negotiation.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the European Union has agreed to the request of Mauritius for an additional derogation of 2,000 tons of preserved tuna. The grant of the derogation would be for a period of one year with effect from 1 April 2013.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development would formulate the Low Carbon Development Strategy and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions for Mauritius, as agreed at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in December 2010. The development of a Low Carbon Development Strategy and the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions would take into account the long term energy security for sustainable development, enable Mauritius to pave the way towards a green economy and help create green jobs.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development would launch a Climate Change Information Centre in July 2013. The Centre, a data repository, would, amongst others, provide information, act as a knowledge-based platform, and provide digital toolkits to various key sectors of the economy on climate change.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Project Plan Committee has recommended a number of projects to the tune of Rs284.38m for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme, viz.–

- (a) construction of a Special Education Needs Resource Centre at Rivière des Anguilles;
- (b) renovation of the synthetic track at Maryse Justin Stadium, Réduit; and
- (c) improvement of road infrastructure from Grande Montagne to Graviers, and from Citronelle (Steel Reservoir) to Terre Rouge Road, Rodrigues.

7. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements made to redeploy employees of the Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and parastatal bodies falling under the aegis of that Ministry. The redeployment exercise is being undertaken following the setting up of the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Organization, which would take over the functions of the Tobacco Board. The redeployed employees would be allowed to carry forward certain privileges, such as balance of vacation leave, and accumulated passage benefits and sick leave. However, accumulated passage benefits and sick leaves would be paid to employees who so wish. Pension benefits would be transferred to the pension fund of the respective organization where the employees would be posted.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the operationalisation of the Jeffco InfraCana II Cane Analysers in the laboratories of sugar factories. The Analysers are automated machines patented for analysing the chemical and physical properties of sugar cane which form the basis for payment to sugar cane planters. The testing method places Mauritius in the forefront of cane testing among sugar producing countries.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Harvest Season 2013 started at on 14 June and would end by mid-December 2013. The cane yield is estimated at around 4.1 million tonnes and sugar production at around 425,000 tonnes.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the centenary of the Cooperative Movement in Mauritius, as well as the 91st International Cooperative Alliance International Cooperative Day and the 19th UN International Day of Cooperatives, would be celebrated on 6 and 7 July 2013. The Cooperative Societies Ordinance, which catered mainly for the Cooperative Cane Sector, was passed in 1913 after Mr Manilall Doctor had deponed before the Royal Commission in 1909, and the Wilberforce Report, which had evoked the deplorable plight of small planters, was published. The first Society to be registered in 1913 was a Cooperative Credit Society. This year the theme selected by the United Nations is ***Cooperative Enterprise remains strong in time of crisis***. On the occasion, a gathering of cooperators and a 2-day National Cooperative and SME Fair would be held at the football playground of the University of Mauritius, Réduit.

10. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Harmonisation of Seed Regulations in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Memorandum of Understanding provides Member States with a legal framework to cooperate in the implementation of a harmonised seed regulatory system with a view to facilitating the availability of high quality seed to farmers within the SADC region, encouraging faster and safer movement of seeds, and reducing costs related to the seed trade.

11. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the implementation of the Second Phase of the Ring Road Project. The Ministry of Housing and Lands is making arrangements to relocate some 70 families residing on the alignment of the Project.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment to Geneva where he participated in the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference. The Conference, amongst others, considered -

- (a) employment and social protection in the new demographic context;
- (b) sustainable development, decent work and green jobs; and
- (c) the strategic objective of social dialogue under the follow-up to the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment met the Director General of the ILO, Mr Guy Ryder, with whom he discussed technical assistance extended to Mauritius, including the Decent Work Country Programme, and Professor Zullino of the "*Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève*" in the wake of the mission of Professor Allsop, in relation to *Alcohol and Drug Related Problems at the Workplace*.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the publication of the Report on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities by the National Economic and Social Council. In its report, the National Economic and Social Council has identified all barriers hindering the employment of persons with disabilities and made a number of proposals, including -

- (a) the review of the ratio of employment of persons with disabilities to the workforce of an enterprise provided in the enabling legislation;
- (b) the updating of the register of persons with disabilities and the register of employers by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board;
- (c) the sensitisation of employers on the relevant provisions of the legislation; and
- (d) the setting up of a 'One-Stop-Shop' at the level of the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board to assist employers in identifying suitable persons with disabilities for employment.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Bangladesh where she participated in the Parliamentary Workshop on Women's Political Party Caucusing and the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting. The theme of the Meeting was **Women's Leadership for Enterprise**, which highlights the importance and significance of women's representation in the economy and in decision-making processes, global financial markets, leading banks and national policy making bodies.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare met Ms Freda Mirikilis, President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women with whom she discussed the possibility of registering the National Women Entrepreneur Council as an entity, and the Hon Mrs Meher Afroze Chumki, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs of Bangladesh with whom she discussed avenues of cooperation and exchange in the field of handicraft and women entrepreneurship development.

15 Cabinet has taken note that Mr Hemraz Beeharry-Panray has been nominated Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority and Mr François de Grivel, CBE, Chairperson of the Council of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of Trustees of the Mauritius Tamil Cultural Centre Trust with Mr Soopramanien Comaren as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund with Mr Mayendrah Utchanah as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of Trustees of the Malcom de Chazal Trust Fund with Mr Robert Furlong as Chairperson.
