

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 22 FEBRUARY 2013**

1. Cabinet has taken note that the High Powered Committee, chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, met on 15 February 2013 to review progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission. The Committee has, amongst others, -

- (a) proposed the setting up of a four-member Coordination Team, chaired by Mr Jacques Panglose, to closely coordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and report to the High Powered Committee on a regular basis; and
- (b) recommended the setting up of a Land Research and Mediation Commission to, amongst others, look in-depth into all cases of dispossession of land mentioned in the Report of the Commission.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Executive Summary of the Recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission would be translated into French and Creole.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the Pre-market Tests and Certification Scheme, which provides that, prior to putting their products on sale, enterprises engaged in agro-processing activities should have their products tested and certified by the Government Analyst Division of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. As announced in the 2013 Budget Speech, Government would bear the full costs of expenses incurred under the Scheme to support small agro-processing enterprises, having a turnover of less than Rs10M and registered with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund. The Fund and the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit would carry out campaigns to sensitize agro-processors on the benefit of the Scheme.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the logo that would be used during the National Day Celebrations 2013. The logo uses four hands that are linked in the colours of the National flag and, altogether, represents a dove. The hands depict the workforce of the country; intertwined, the hands bring in a notion of togetherness and unity and suggest how people of all levels and status can stand alongside each other for the love of the country. The theme of the celebrations is **Enn Pei, Enn Nasion, Enn Destin.**



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4. Cabinet has taken note that an Unsolicited Commercial Electronic Messages Bill would, shortly, be introduced to, amongst others, prohibit the sending of unsolicited commercial electronic messages with a Mauritian link, and address-harvesting software or a harvested-address list from being used to send such messages, as well as to stop the number of malicious attacks to targeted servers or information and communication technology infrastructure.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001 would be amended to, amongst others, make better provision for licensing in a competitive environment, and improve some existing provisions of the Act, which, with experience, have been found to be no longer relevant in view of emerging technologies, new business models and market demands for new services.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the allocation of State lands for agro-industrial purposes, such as farming and pig breeding activities, under the various schemes. Under the deal on Sugar Reform led by Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, in 2007, the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association agreed to release a total of 1,000 Arpents of sugar cane land for food production. To date, some 332 Arpents of land have been acquired by Government, out of which 235 Arpents have been allocated for food crop and livestock production. Following a survey carried out by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, it has been noted that a number of beneficiaries have not made judicious use of the land allocated to them. Given the emphasis laid by Government on the implementation of various projects/schemes for food security, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is making arrangements to retrieve all unutilized State lands and reallocate to those interested in farming activities.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the value of exports of the Export-Oriented Enterprise Sector has increased from Rs3.07bn in January 2012 to Rs3.34bn in January 2013, i.e., an increase of 8.7%. An increase of 31.7% had also been recorded in the volume of exports of fish and fish preparations.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Mauritius e-Registry Project at the Registrar General's Department. The first phase of the project comprises the setting up of a software called e-Registry, and in the second phase, the services would be transformed to electronic mode. The project would provide, amongst others, a single point service counters, faster management reporting and full electronic search facilities.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and SADC would sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of Supranational Reference Laboratories, and Regional Centres of Excellence. The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework of cooperation for the designation and operationalisation of the Supranational Reference Laboratories for HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, and the Regional Centres of Excellence for Human Resources Development and Quality Assurance relating to communicable diseases in the SADC region.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the *Réunion de la Commission des affaires parlementaires de l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie* would be held in Mauritius from 14 to 16 March 2013. At the Meeting, matters of common interest to Members of Parliaments from Francophone countries, inter-parliamentary cooperation, rights and liberties, and the development of democracy would be discussed. Some 40 participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States of America would attend the Meeting.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that, during Cane Harvest for Crop 2012, a total of 3,942,325 tonnes of canes were harvested on an area of 54,139 hectares, representing a total production of 409,200 tonnes of sugar.

Cabinet has also taken note that, during the Crop 2012, a total of 2,003 hectares of canes were burnt accidentally. In 2010 and 2011, the extent of canes burnt accidentally were 2,412 hectares and 2,089 hectares respectively. The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security had set up a High Powered Committee to control the outbreak of accidental/criminal fires in the fields of small/medium planters.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Italy where he, in his capacity as Governor of the Fund, participated in the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The main theme of the Session was **The power of partnerships: forging alliances for sustainable smallholder agriculture**. The Session focussed on the power of partnership to reduce poverty and ensure food security in rural communities worldwide.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security met Dr Kanayo Felix Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, with whom he discussed the status of the implementation of the IFAD/Marine and Agricultural Resources Support Programme in Mauritius and also finalised his visit to Mauritius, scheduled from 3 to 6 March 2013.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology to Paris and London. In Paris, the Minister visited the Université des Limoges, assisted the signing of a Framework Agreement between the Université des Mascareignes and the Université de Limoges and providing for collaboration with respect to structuring governance, training and research. Under the Agreement, students of the Université des Mascareignes would be entitled to a joint diploma/degree with the Université de Limoges. He also visited the Cité des Sciences.

In London, the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology visited the Imperial College, where he had working sessions with the Head of the Department of Primary Care and Public Health; the Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, University of Arts, London; the University of Oxford; the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, and the University of Cambridge.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to India. During the visit, the Minister had discussions with –

- (a) the Hon Dr M.V. Moily, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, on the sourcing of petroleum products from the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and the possibility for the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited investing in a storage terminal project in Mauritius;
- (b) the Hon Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, on issues raised during his recent visit to Mauritius, as well as on the outcome of the meeting of the Second Joint Committee on Textiles and Clothing held in January 2013 in Mauritius; and
- (c) the Hon Prof K.V. Thomas, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on areas of collaboration on consumer protection.

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15. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands visited Agalega to look into how the quality of life in Agalega could be improved. Several issues were canvassed with the local people, including the construction of airstrip, improvement of arrangements in place in the education sector and the provision of health facilities, as well as the construction of cold room for the storage of vegetables.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Mozambique where she participated in the meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women Affairs. The objective of the Meeting was to consolidate the position of SADC for the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and review progress on the SADC Regional Programme during the years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

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17. Cabinet has taken note that the Financial Secretary, in his capacity as former chair of the Global Forum for Migration and Development, has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Board of the Africa Remittances and Money Transfer Markets Forum. The Forum aims at discussing and communicating action plans to maximise the potential of remittances as drivers of economic growth and development in Africa, and bringing together regulators and operators to formulate concrete strategies in order to develop the remittance and money transfer markets in Africa.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of -

- (a) the Mental Health Care Accounts Committee with Mr S. Banshi, Senior Analyst, Office of Public Sector Governance as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Board of Trustees of the Trade Union Trust Fund.

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