

CABINET DECISIONS – 25 APRIL 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Global Information Technology Report 2014 of the World Economic Forum ranks Mauritius 48th in the Networked Readiness Index. In 2013, Mauritius ranked 55th. Improvement has been recorded in affordability of network, business environment and innovation, technical skills and regulatory environment. The Index rates 148 countries on their capacity to exploit opportunities by the digital age. The Report has observed that Government's vision to develop ICTs as a key sector to support the economic development of the country, coupled with a positive political and regulatory environment, has resulted in improvement in an affordable ICT infrastructure and higher level of ICT users.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has been declared winner in the category of "Government" by Gender Links Mauritius for promoting empowerment of women and action initiated against gender-based violence.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that the National Women Entrepreneur Council has been officially recognized as FENCOM Chapter for Mauritius. In this connection, the CEO of FENCOM would visit Mauritius shortly to launch the FENCOM Chapter and sign a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for the empowerment of women entrepreneurs.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of broadening the secondary school curriculum, the Minister of Education and Human Resources would promulgate the Education (Amendment) Regulations to provide for the inclusion of two subjects, namely *Travel and Tourism* and *Marine Science*, on the list of subjects that may be offered for the State of Mauritius Scholarships, the SSR National Scholarships, Additional Scholarships (Meritorious) and the MCB Foundation Scholarship.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that *Les Assises de La Famille* would be held at Domaine Les Pailles from 28 to 30 April 2014. The main objective of *Les Assises de La Famille* is to analyse the situation of the family and children in the Mauritian society. Consultations would focus, amongst others, on the following themes: Evolution of Mauritian Families; Protection of the Family; and Policy for the Welfare of Mauritian Families.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with Emtel Ltd, would organize a workshop on the theme "**Digital Service Adoption - Framing the Right Ecosystem**" on 30 April 2014. The main objectives of the Workshop are to share knowledge, insights and best practices through a collaborative Public-Private Partnership mechanism to better understand the new Digital Ecosystems, and leverage on new paradigms which are transforming business models and public sector organisations towards more efficiencies and effectiveness while being citizen-centric.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that an Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the *Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien* (CJSOI) would be held in Mauritius in May 2014. During the meeting, Ministers would take cognizance of arrangements made for the holding of the 9th Edition of the CJSOI Games in Djibouti in December 2014 and decide, amongst others, on the country that would host the 10th Edition of the CJSOI Games in 2016.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from the International Cooperative Fisheries Organisation, a subsidiary of the International Cooperative Alliance, would visit Mauritius in May 2014 to take stock of the state of affairs of the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation in the context of its affiliation to the Organisation.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Qatar where she participated in the Doha International Conference on "Empowering Families: A Pathway to Development" organised by the Doha International Family Institute. The Institute engages in discussions with researchers, policy makers and service providers to develop an improved understanding of family studies worldwide and provide more effective support for positive change for families. The Conference discussed, amongst others, Family and Poverty; Families and Intergenerational Ties; Men in Families; National Institutions and Family Policy; and Family and Civil Society.

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