

CABINET DECISIONS – 4 APRIL 2014

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Consumer Protection Bill in the National Assembly. The objectives of the Bill are to promote and safeguard the economic and social welfare of consumers, and establish a legal framework for the achievement and maintenance of a consumer market which is accessible, fair, efficient, responsible and sustainable for the benefit of consumers. The Bill also provides for the setting up of a National Consumer Council to promote and protect consumer rights.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the new regional Social Security Offices at Curepipe, St Pierre, Montagne Longue and Rivière des Anguilles would be operational as from 10 April 2014. The new offices would enable the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to provide better service to the public through a decentralized system.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has started the Anti-Influenza Vaccination Programme for the winter season 2014 on 2 April 2014. The Programme would cover persons aged 60 and above, children attending specialized schools and inmates of Charitable Institutions.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, as from 7 April 2014, carry out the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign for high risk groups, namely healthcare workers; pregnant women; children aged 6 to 24 months; persons with immune suppression, such as cancer and HIV/AIDS; persons with pre-existing medical conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; persons having chronic respiratory diseases and Tuberculosis; and persons suffering from chronic renal diseases. The vaccination would be conducted in Regional Hospitals, District Hospitals, Area Health Centres, Community Health Centres, and Mediclinics.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the World Health Day, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organize a Workshop on Vector Borne Diseases on 7 April 2014. The theme is - **Small Bite: Big Threat**. The Workshop would focus on technical matters relating to mosquito borne diseases, as well as the revamping of future strategies for more effective vector control.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon Mrs Hanna Serwaah Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, would visit Mauritius from 14 to 17 April 2014. Several areas of cooperation, amongst others, employment of graduates and professionals in Ghana; training of Ghanaian nationals in the field of tourism and leisure; cooperation in the fields of textile and garments and the sugar sector, would be discussed.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius would organize an International Conference on Human Security in June 2014. The aim of the Conference is to promote and encourage high-quality research and development in the field of human security. Academics, postgraduate students, researchers, and policy makers from various countries would attend the Conference.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development would promulgate the Sales by Auction (Appointment of Auctioneers) Regulations to provide for minimum qualifications for new auctioneers. An applicant for an auctioneer licence should -

- (a) be a citizen of Mauritius;
- (b) be at least 25 years;
- (c) possess a Cambridge Higher School Certificate or General Certificate of Education "Advanced Level", with at least 2 subjects at "Advanced Level"; and
- (d) be computer literate.

The Regulations also provide that all auctioneers should, at least every two years, submit a certificate of character and newly appointed auctioneers should follow such courses as may be prescribed.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Fisheries would promulgate the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Fish Farming) Regulations and the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations to prescribe fish farming zones, and the authorization and renewable fees for fish farming. The Regulations provide for 20 sites for fish farming activities, namely Ouest Ile Flamand, Sud Pointe Grande Passe, Roche Plat, Roche Zamari, Nord Est de Jonchée Bank, Le Morne, Bambous, Trou aux Biches, amongst others.

10. Cabinet has taken note that a Regional Workshop on Fossil Fuel and Renewable Energy would be held in Mauritius in May 2014. The objective of the Workshop is to provide an opportunity to participating Small Island Developing States to move forward the reform agenda in the renewable energy sector by developing a Fossil Fuel and Renewable Energy capacity building and collaborative policy making methodology, so as to accelerate the transition to low-emission renewable energy sources.
