

CABINET DECISIONS – 18 JULY 2014

1. Cabinet has taken note of the proposal of Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development for the issue of two Government of Mauritius Savings Bonds reserved for individuals only. The main objectives of this issue are to –

- (a) promote the national savings culture;
- (b) offer households, especially those who depend on interest income, a higher rate of interest on their lifelong savings;
- (c) protect their interest income from inflation and earn a positive real return; and
- (d) help mop up excess liquidity in the banking system which is causing interest rates on savings to fall to low levels.

The following two types of bonds will be available **as from 23 July 2014**:

- (a) Five-Year Government of Mauritius Savings Bonds at a fixed coupon rate of 6 percent per annum; and
- (b) Five-Year Government of Mauritius Inflation Index-linked Savings Bonds at a fixed interest rate of 2 percent per annum plus the annual headline inflation rate.

Details about the key features of these bonds would be made available to the public through the media.

2. The Government of Mauritius views with great concern the escalation of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in the killing of innocent people, including children, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. The Government and the people of Mauritius condemn Israël's illegal occupation and the continuing violation of the territorial integrity of Palestine.

3. Cabinet has taken note that a Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, has been set up to look into arrangements to be made so that Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated in the best conditions. The Committee would comprise, amongst others, the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands and the Minister of Arts and Culture.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology and the University of Glasgow, Scotland, would sign a Memorandum of Agreement on Academic Cooperation to enable Mauritian students to study medicine and dentistry at the University. The Agreement provides that the University would allocate three seats to Mauritian candidates in the first year of the MBChB Undergraduate Medicine programme, and three in the BDS Undergraduate Dental programme.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a New Ophthalmology Unit at Souillac Hospital with a view to increasing accessibility to specialized eye services and decongesting the workload at the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital, Moka. The Unit would provide outpatient services, as well as cataract and minor eye surgery services. About 145,000 patients are seen annually at the Accident and Emergency Department of Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital. Attendances at the Outpatient Department were 61,801 in 2011, 56,573 in 2012 and 61,302 in 2013. The number of patients seen for refraction was 12,144 in 2013. Some 7,328 eye surgeries were carried out at the Hospital in 2013.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministerial Committee, set up under the chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, had a meeting with the Chairperson and Members of the Council of Registered Professional Engineers to review representations received on the non-registration by the Council of the graduates of the JSS-Academy of Technical Education (Mauritius). The Council has, subsequently, decided that all students enrolled before 11 July 2014 at the JSS-Academy of Technical Education (Mauritius) for engineering courses would, upon graduation, be registered as a Professional Engineer, subject to the usual procedures.

Cabinet has also taken note that, following the judgment on 4 July 2014, the High Court of Karnataka, India has restored the affiliation of the JSS-Academy of Technical Education (Mauritius) with the Visveswaraya Technological University, India.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make Regulations under the Medical Council Act 1999 and the Dental Council Act 1999 for the recognition and listing of the following medical and dental institutions –

- (a) KLE University, Karnataka, India;
- (b) Jiamusi University, People's Republic of China;
- (c) Nanjing Medical University, People's Republic of China;
- (d) Huazhong University of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China; and
- (e) Central South University, People's Republic of China.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the status regarding the formulation of a Low Carbon Development Strategy and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions for Mauritius. The project would help ensure the development of a strategy for a low emission pathway for Mauritius, further enhance the local capability to design and implement mitigation projects and programmes in different sectors of the economy and meet the Maurice Ile Durable (MID) national target of 35% renewable energy by 2025. The project would cover key sectors as renewable energy, environment, green economy, land use change and forestry.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Third Edition of Infotech Rodrigues would be held on 2 and 3 August 2014 at Basil Allas Government School, Rodrigues. The objectives of Infotech Rodrigues are to –

- (a) increase awareness on emerging technologies;
- (b) sensitize on the potential application of ICT and on career opportunities in the ICT sector;
- (c) promote and encourage ICT literacy; and
- (d) bring Government services closer to the people by providing accessible and integrated online public services.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) would sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of accreditation with the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies of India. The main objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to enable MAURITAS and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies to facilitate technical assistance and cooperation in the field of accreditation with a view to, *inter alia*, exchanging information, sharing expertise and facilitating mutual trade of goods and services in line with the World Trade Organisation/Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.

11. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the setting up of a Data Disaster Recovery Centre by the National Computer Board for Critical Government Systems. The Government Online Centre houses the state-of-the-art computer and networking infrastructure, including web, e-mail, and application servers with appropriate security features at a central location to support the electronic delivery of Government services. Although the Government Online Centre adopts stringent information security measures, which adhere to the industry's best practices and international standards on Information Security, such as ISO 270001, a Disaster Recovery Centre is being set up to provide for an effective solution that could be used to recover vital business processes within a required time frame using the records that are stored off-site.

12. Cabinet has taken note that, under the Regional Project “*Sustaining Clinical Nuclear Medicine Techniques in the Management of Diseases including Coronary Artery Disease*”, a Regional Training Course for Technologists on Paediatric Imaging would be held in Mauritius in 2015. The main objective of the training course, organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency, would be to enhance the capabilities of Technologists to perform paediatric imaging in a safe and effective manner. The topics that would be covered include –

- (a) the role of Nuclear Medicine in Children, special issues and unique clinical studies;
- (b) hepatobiliary scintigraphy in current paediatric practice; and
- (c) scintigraphic evaluation of paediatric urogenital system (urinary tract infection).

13. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the establishment of Mauritius as a regional petroleum hub by 2018, namely bunker trade has been liberalized since January 2014; an on-shore tankage, including an oil terminal is being set up to cope with the growing demand in petroleum products; and the possibility of putting up a refinery of 7 million tons in the medium term is being envisaged. The strategic approach takes into account new developments in petroleum findings and trade and opportunities offered to investors.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Civil Service Kermesse organized by the Public Officers’ Welfare Council would be held on Sunday 09 November 2014 on the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas. The Civil Service Kermesse is one of the most popular activities where Public Officers, their families and members of the public have the opportunity to meet and interact in a convivial atmosphere.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Equatorial Guinea where he participated in the 25th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union and the 23rd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Governments. The main theme of the Summit was “**Transforming Africa’s Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, through Harnessing Opportunities for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development**”. Discussions centered, amongst others, on -

- (a) 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security;
- (b) Africa Agenda 2063;
- (c) the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM Strategy);
- (d) Trade Negotiations; and
- (e) The State of Peace and Security in Africa.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Management of the Public Officers' Welfare Council under the chairmanship of Mr Devendra Parsad Ruhee, OSK, former Senior Chief Executive.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Nursing Council of Mauritius.
