

## CABINET DECISIONS – 27 JUNE 2014

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Constitution (Declaration of Community) (Temporary Provisions) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to make special provision regarding the declaration of a candidate as to his community for the next general election, pending the subsuming of the Best Loser system in a different method of allocating additional seats.

The Bill provides that -

- (a) a candidate at that election may elect not to declare the community to which he belongs. Where he does not make such a declaration, he shall be deemed to have opted not to be considered for the purpose of the allocation of additional seats pursuant to the First Schedule to the Constitution and no additional seat shall be allocated to him;
- (b) where a candidate who has not declared his community is returned as member, the Electoral Supervisory Commission shall, for the sole purposes of determining the appropriate community and allocating additional seats under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule to the Constitution at the next general election, proceed on the basis of the average number of returned members belonging to each community at all general elections held since 1976; and
- (c) where all candidates who are returned as members have declared their community, the allocation of additional seats shall continue to be effected under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule to the Constitution.

\*\*\*

2. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius ranks 76<sup>th</sup> internationally in the area of e-governance amongst 193 countries covered in the UN e-Government Readiness Survey 2014 as compared to 93<sup>rd</sup> in 2012, i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> in Sub-Saharan Africa and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the African Continent. Mauritius is amongst the six countries in Africa that have e-government Development Index values above the world average of 0.4712. The Report highlights that the Government of Mauritius has put effort in developing its online portal and telecommunication infrastructure. The Government website - [www.gov.mu](http://www.gov.mu) - offers citizens an exhaustive list of e-services segmented by target persons, by domain, by Ministry, by department and parastatally. Even though Mauritius is one of the Small Island Developing States with a small land area and population, its economy has developed since independence from a small-scale focus based on agriculture to a diversified middle-income economy.

\*\*\*

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children would join the *Association des Ombudsmans et Médiateurs de la Francophonie*, which groups the Ombudspersons and the *Médiateurs* from Francophone countries. The main mission of the Association is to promote democracy, rule of law and social peace, and get Member States to comply with their national legislation and international instruments on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Association provides formal training opportunities and also promotes the sharing of experience between different stakeholders.

\*\*\*

4. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would participate in the XX Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 23 July to 3 August 2014, in athletics, boxing, judo, weightlifting, badminton, table tennis, cycling, squash, swimming, triathlon and wrestling, as well as activities for athletes with disability.

\*\*\*

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Housing and Lands would be the Government Partner of the Africa Geospatial Forum 2014 which is organised by the Geospatial Media and Communications Pty Ltd and scheduled for August 2014 in Lagos, Nigeria. The theme of the Conference is '**Smart Governance: Connecting Geospatial Community**'. The Conference aims at bringing professionals, service providers, researchers, technology users, policy makers and representatives of the geospatial industry, particularly from Africa, on a common platform for the further expansion and growth of the geospatial technology across the Continent to contribute to equitable growth. As a Government Partner of the Forum, the Ministry of Housing and Lands would, amongst others, provide technical assistance to the designing and development of the Conference.

\*\*\*

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Tourism and Leisure would make the Tourism Authority (Tourist Enterprise Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations to adjust the Tourism Enterprise Fees in order to avoid the levying of double fees in the Tourism Sector. The amendment provides for:

- (a) no fee to be paid by an applicant for a Tourist Enterprise Licence or the renewal for a Tourist Enterprise Licence for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014 in respect of certain tourism activities, such as Guest house, Hotel, Nightclub, Pub and Restaurant;
- (b) the payment of the difference between the Tourist Enterprise Licence Fees and the Trade Fees to the Tourism Authority in respect of the tourism activities as from 1 January 2015; and
- (c) no fee to be paid by an applicant of a Tourist Enterprise Licence to the Tourism Authority in the event where the Trade Fees exceed or equal to the amount to be paid as Tourist Enterprise Licence Fees.

\*\*\*

7. Cabinet has taken note of the list of Public Holidays for the year 2015.

New Year	Thursday 01 January
New Year	Friday 02 January
Abolition of Slavery	Sunday 01 February
Thaipooosam Cavadee	Tuesday 03 February
Maha Shivaratree	Tuesday 17 February
Chinese Spring Festival	Thursday 19 February
National Day	Thursday 12 March
Ugaadi	Saturday 21 March
Labour Day	Friday 01 May
Eid-UI-Fitr**	Saturday 18 July
Ganesh Chaturthi	Friday 18 September
All Saints Day	Sunday 01 November
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Monday 02 November
Divali	Wednesday 11 November
Christmas	Friday 25 December

***\*\*The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.***

\*\*\*

8. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprise Sector for the period January to May 2014 as compared to the corresponding period in 2013. During that period, the value of exports reached Rs19.3 billion as compared to Rs18.6 billion in the corresponding period in 2013, i.e., an increase of 3.7%. The value of exports in the Textile and Clothing sub-sector and of Jewellery and Precious and Semi-precious stones increased by 8.0% and 34.6%, respectively while the volume of exports of Fish and Fish Preparations registered a growth of 9.4%.

Cabinet further noted that exports to most of the Euro zone markets, as well as to the USA, have increased.

\*\*\*

9. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would organize the Second Coordinating Meeting of the Regional IAEA Project – “Applying Nuclear Techniques to Design and Evaluate Interventions to Reduce Obesity and Related Health Risks” – in Mauritius in September 2014. The main objective of the Project is to use stable isotope techniques to assess body fat, total energy expenditure and physical activity with a view to designing and evaluating interventions aiming at preventing and controlling obesity and related health risks, such as diabetes, among children in Africa. The main objective of the Coordinating Meeting is to review the current situation, progress made, and difficulties encountered, as well as the workplan of the Project and the action plans for each country project team.

\*\*\*

10. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Jean Roger Boodhna, OSK, as Ombudsperson for Sports.

\*\*\*

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to Singapore where he participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum on Information Communications and Technology and the Infocomm Media Business Exchange. The theme for this year's Forum was *Smart Nation: Harnessing Opportunities, Addressing Challenges*. The objective of the Forum was to provide expert insights in developing smarter solutions to address the risks and challenges associated with increased urban connectivity, as well as, engage ICT leaders and policy makers in visionary thinking and policy-shaping exchanges.

In the margins of the Forum, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology had bilateral meetings, amongst others, with -

- (a) Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore, on ongoing projects undertaken by Government, such as the Mauritius National Identity Card Scheme and the e-Judiciary; and
- (b) Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers on the issue of the Dot Mu Country Code Top Level Domain.

\*\*\*

12. Cabinet has taken note of the publication of the *Health Statistics Report 2013* by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The Report provides information on Population and Vital Statistics, Infrastructure and Personnel Services, Morbidity and Mortality. In 2013, for the Island of Mauritius –

- (a) 12,986 live births and 9,231 deaths were registered;
- (b) the Infant Mortality Rate decreased from 13.4 per 1,000 live births in 2012 to 12.2, the lowest ever recorded;
- (c) the Stillbirth Rate decreased from 9.5 per 1,000 births in 2012 to 8.7;
- (d) 260 new HIV/AIDS cases were detected;
- (e) death due to cardiovascular diseases was 31.0% as compared to 35.0% in 2008;
- (f) a daily average of more than 14,000 persons were seen as outpatients in public health institutions;
- (g) a total of 1,060,362 cases was seen as outpatient at specialized clinics in government hospitals, i.e., 150,119 at Orthopaedics clinics, 136,125 at General Medicine clinics, 115,073 at Cardiology clinics and 100,281 at General Surgery clinics; and

- (h) in the period 2000 to 2013, life expectancy at birth increased by 2.5 years for men (from 68.1 to 70.6 years) and by 2.4 years for women (from 75.3 to 77.7 years).

As regards the Island of Rodrigues, 702 live births and 209 deaths were registered in 2013; the Infant Mortality Rate decreased from 20.6 per 1,000 live births in 2012 to 8.5; no maternal death was recorded in 2013; and the number of cases of scabies attending Health Centres decreased from 641 in 2012 to 417 in 2013.

\*\*\*

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Loïs Lagesse Trust Fund under the chairmanship of Mr Denis Claude Marcel Grandport, OSK.

\*\*\*\*\*