

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 20 JUNE 2014**

1. Cabinet has taken note that, at the invitation of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Dr Dlamini Zuma and His Excellency Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, would participate in the 23rd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly to be held on 26 and 27 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. He would be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, and Senior Officials.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the payment of a subsidy of Rs2,000 per tonne of sugar to planters cultivating up to 25 arpents, in line with the decision taken by Government to provide financial assistance to small and medium sugar cane planters for a period of two crop years pending the outcome of the assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of the abolition of the EU Sugar Quota and taking into consideration the recent decline in the price of sugar across the EU with the consequential impact on the Sugar Sector. The payment of the subsidy, which is a non-reimbursable grant, will be done separately from the payment of the 80% reimbursable advance financed by the Bank of Mauritius and paid to planters by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the launching by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security of the 20 Schemes in the Non-Sugar Sector which aim at further boosting local production of food crops and improving the level of self-sufficiency in various strategic commodities, thereby decreasing our dependency on imports. Under the Schemes, beneficiaries, including those growing backyard small scale garden, would be eligible to a grant subject to their satisfying the established criteria.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has launched the Field Operations, Regrouping and Irrigation Project Scheme which aims at encouraging the regrouping of planters growing fruits, flowers and vegetables, and improving productive potential of agricultural land. The Scheme provides funding for land preparation and other agricultural infrastructural works, such as installation of in-field irrigation networks, construction/upgrading of tracks providing access to fields and construction of field drainage system.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the preparatory work for Mauritius to be the “Partner Country” in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Izmir International Fair 2014 scheduled for August 2014 in the Republic of Turkey. At the Fair, operators from various sectors, such as textiles and clothing, light engineering, agro-industry, financial services, education, tourism and leisure, health and wellness services, property and real estate, would display their products. The Ministry of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, would organize a Fusion Show at the Opening Ceremony of the Fair. The Mauritian troupe would also perform during dedicated events which would be organized by Enterprise Mauritius, the Board of Investment and the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that a High Level Task Force has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to look into the organization of Venkateshwara Puja.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency would hold a regional meeting in Mauritius in July 2014 to endorse the Action Plan for the second phase of the project “*Strengthening Effective Compliance Assurance for the Transport of Radioactive Material*” which is being implemented over the period 2012-2015. The Meeting would also address weaknesses in the safe transport of radioactive materials.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the various activities that would be organized in the context of the 92nd ICA International Cooperative Day and the 20th UN International Day of Cooperatives which would be commemorated on 5 July 2014. The theme would be “**Cooperative Enterprises achieve sustainable development for all**”. On the occasion, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives is organizing a Gathering of Cooperators on 5 July 2014 and a National Cooperative and SME Market Fair on 5 and 6 July 2014 at the Open University of Mauritius, Bel Air Campus, Bel Air. Cooperative societies, women entrepreneurs, and small and medium enterprises would sell their products ranging from agricultural products, spices, food items, handicraft and jewellery, flowers, potted plants and apparel.

The International Cooperative Day and the 90th Anniversary of the Cooperative Movement in Rodrigues would be held from 8 to 10 August 2014. On the occasion, a fair would be organized at Port Mathurin and a Special Commemorative Cover and a Souvenir would be launched.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, in collaboration with the newly set up Rodrigues Economic Chamber and Industry (RECI), to consolidate and expand the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector in Rodrigues, namely –

- (a) training and capacity building programme in relation to entrepreneurship development and enhancement of skills;
- (b) the National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship would provide its support in the organization of a series of training courses;
- (c) the RECI would assist in the dissemination of information on the schemes targeted to the micro, small and medium enterprises in Rodrigues; and
- (d) the RECI would identify SMEs requiring mentoring and handholding in order to benefit from the Mauritius Business Growth Scheme.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the application for the affiliation of the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd to the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization, a delegation, led by Mr Lee Jong Koo, President of the Organization, visited Mauritius from 7 to 10 June 2014. During the visit, the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization and the Mauritius Cooperative Union Ltd., acting on behalf of the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd., signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing, inter alia, for close cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mauritian fishing industry and the promotion of cooperative values and principles.

The International Cooperative Fisheries Organization has also donated four Notebooks and one desktop computer to the Mauritius Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd. and the Mauritius Cooperative Union Ltd. Following discussions with the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, the President of the Organization agreed to provide assistance for building low cost fishing vessels, donate second-hand fishing vessels, and green collaboration in the field of aquaculture.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has published a Training Manual on Climate Change for Women in creole and a Poster for students. The main purpose of the Manual is to provide basic understanding of climate change, as well as enumerates a series of practical measures and steps that can be adopted as part of day-to-day activities. The Poster lays down practical and useful tips to combat climate change.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Fisheries to Australia where he participated in the World Aquaculture Conference. The main theme of the Conference was **“Create, Nurture and Grow”**. A wide variety of issues, such as tune ranching, oyster farming, molluscs farming, new freshwater species, octopus farming, production of sea cucumber, protection of the environment, quality control, disease control, were discussed.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Fisheries had meetings with the Head of Aquaculture Science and Engineering of the Flinders University, the Executive Director of Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and Dr S. Kolkovski, Principal Research Scientist of the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Western Australia.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Dirk Pulkowski as the representative of the Mauritius Office of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, established in 1899 as an inter-governmental organization. The Court provides services for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of States, State entities, inter-governmental organizations, and private parties. The first hearing by the Mauritius Office of the Court was held in May 2014.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Lindsay Réginald Morvan, OSK, MSK, as Chairperson of the Board of the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund.

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