

## CABINET DECISIONS – 27 NOVEMBER 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Tripartite Committee for the determination of the payment of salary compensation to employees of the private sector would meet on 3 December 2015.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Central Electricity Board would, as from 1 January 2016, introduce a new social Tariff (Tariff 110 A). The new tariff would enable some 70,000 low income domestic consumers, i.e., households receiving social assistance from the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, those identified by the National Empowerment Foundation, and whose average monthly consumption is less than or equal to 85 kWh, to benefit from a subsidized electricity tariff.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training amending the Catering and Tourism Industries Remuneration Regulations 2014 to provide for the reduction of the normal working hours in the Catering and Tourism Industry from 48 to 45 hours per week, and the payment of extra work after 45 hours to be effective as from 8 November 2014.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training making regulations to postpone the coming into operation of the Occupational Safety and Health (Safety of Scaffolds) Regulations 2013 to 1 March 2016 in view of the fact that the courses run by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development to qualify as a Scaffold Supervisor would be completed by early next year. The Occupational Safety and Health (Safety of Scaffolds) Regulations 2013 provide for a Scaffold Contractor to undertake construction, erection, installation, repositioning, alteration, maintenance, repair or dismantling of a scaffold only if he has in his employment a Scaffold Supervisor. Cabinet has also decided that the coming into operation of the Regulations would not be extended further.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the National Road Safety campaign “**Towards zero death and serious injuries on our roads 2015-2025**” would be launched on 9 December 2015. The campaign aims at preventing road accidents and saving lives on roads. Between 2010 and 2014, a total of 739 persons were killed in road crashes, and 2,575 persons seriously injured.

Cabinet has also taken note that a Workshop would be held on 9 and 10 December 2015 to validate the National Road Safety Strategy 2015-2025. The following themes would also be discussed -

- (a) the pedagogy of driving;
- (b) road education at school;
- (c) the road safety at work;
- (d) the concept of safe road system; and
- (e) health as a major road safety issue.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the University of Mauritius and the Confucius Institute Headquarters of China signing an Agreement on the setting up of a Confucius Institute at the University. The Institute aims at promoting the Chinese language, providing Chinese language teaching resources, training instructors in Chinese language and conducting language and cultural exchange activities.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of an *Avenant* to the *Accord de Coopération Culturelle et Technique entre le Gouvernement de la République Française et le Gouvernement de la République de Maurice*, for the period 2015 – 2018. The *Avenant* provides for further cooperation and technical assistance in the fields of theatre management, modernization of the historical museums, the development of the cinema industry, and training in the fields of theatre and drama.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that a Training Workshop on Wave Forecasting would be held in Mauritius from 14 to 18 December 2015. The Workshop will equip participants with the latest tools and techniques to provide timely and accurate warning of high waves and to alert operators in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius on the condition of the sea and enhance the capacity of the Mauritius Meteorological Services to gradually develop its own model of wave forecasting.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) Co-Products Workshop would be held in Mauritius from 30 November to 4 December 2015. The theme of the Workshop is “**Development of co-products from sugar mill streams and sugar cane biomass**”. The areas that would be covered in the Workshop, include -

- (a) advances in ethanol fermentation from juice and molasses and cellulosic fermentation;
- (b) chemical and biochemical uses of co-products;
- (c) bagasse and additional fuels, including trash for cogeneration; and
- (d) high fibre and energy cane.

Some 65 foreign delegates and 28 Mauritians will attend the Workshop.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Centres of Excellence Network for the Africa Region would be held in Mauritius from 02 to 04 December 2015. The Centres of Excellence programme was launched by the ITU with a view to supporting capacity building and sharing expertise, resources and know-how in telecommunications and information and communication technologies in developing countries. The issues that would be discussed are, *inter alia*, -

- (a) Policy and regulation;
- (b) Broadband access;
- (c) Cyber security;
- (d) Spectrum management;
- (e) Emergency telecommunications; and
- (f) e-Waste.

Participants from the ITU, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal would attend the Meeting.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Health and Quality of Life making Regulations under the Pharmacy Act to prohibit the use of Stilbenes, Stilbene Derivatives, their Salts and Esters and Thyrostatic Substances in animal products and aquaculture products following the recommendations of the Food and Veterinary Office that ensures that EU legislation on, among others, food safety and animal health, is properly implemented.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the Public Service Excellence Award (PSEA) 2015 by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms. The theme of the PSEA 2015 is “**Creativity and Innovation to Improve Public Service Delivery**”. The PSEA has emerged as one of the most appropriate tool to steer the Civil Service as a dynamic, customer-centric and performing institution to reach new horizons.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised in the context of World AIDS Day 2015, commemorated on 1 December. The theme chosen by UNAIDS to mark the World AIDS Day for the years 2011 to 2015 is ‘**Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths**’. In this context, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise a workshop on the theme retained by UNAIDS. The workshop aims at addressing the challenges relating to HIV and AIDS. Other activities that would be organised to mark the World AIDS Day 2015, include –

- (a) an HIV Testing and Counselling Day at Blue Bay Public Beach;
- (b) sensitization campaign on HIV and AIDS; and
- (c) HIV screening programme at Flacq Shopping Mall.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, commemorated on 3 December. The theme for this year is “**Inclusion matters: access and empowerment of people of all abilities**”. Activities that would be organized include –

- (a) a national function to showcase the talents of the National Troupe of Persons with Disabilities. On the occasion, awards would be remitted to the best employer, the best employee, the best sportsperson, the best artist and the best student; and
- (b) a Disability Week from 26 November to 10 December 2015 in various regions of the country, including a fun day for children with disabilities, creativity activities and a social gathering.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized to mark the International Volunteer Day, commemorated on 5 December. The aim of the International Volunteer Day is to recognise the contribution of volunteers and voluntary organisations towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. An official function would be held on 5 December 2015. On the occasion, participants who have followed training courses in First Aid, Effective Communication and Social Leadership would be awarded certificates. The NGO Trust Fund would organise a half-day brainstorming session on the theme of “**Social Innovation**”, which is a new concept to address social problems in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of a programme on Greening of Mauritius, Greening of Africa and Greening of the Planet with a view to achieving multiplier effect for the overall greening of Mauritius. The objective of the Programme is to embellish Mauritius by planting endemic, decorative, and fruit trees, and flowering and medicinal plants throughout the country.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Cooperative Development Fund Committee with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) as Chairperson.

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