

CABINET DECISIONS – 13 FEBRUARY 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note that the composition of the Board of Directors of the Civil Service College Mauritius has been reviewed in order to have a better representation of persons from academia. The College would, among others, cater for training and development needs of public officers, and officers of local authorities and parastatal bodies with a view to upgrading their competencies, and contribute to translate the vision of Government to bring about change in the Civil Service. In the long run, the College would position itself as a Centre of Excellence in the region.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the theme for National Day Celebrations 2015 is **nouvo destin avèk lepep**. The Ministry of Arts and Culture would launch a national competition for a logo based on the theme.

3. Cabinet has taken note that 103,606 tourists visited Mauritius in January 2015, as compared to 96,332 in January 2014, i.e., an increase of 7.6%. United Kingdom (+26.0%), France (+5.3%), Germany (+4.5%), South Africa (+39.3%), and Reunion Island (+3.8%) remain the five top tourist-generating markets.

4. Cabinet has taken note of remedial measures taken on the damaged part of Terre Rouge-Verdun Link Road. The Road Development Authority has recommended the construction of French drains for sub-soil drainage, and the repair of the carriageway. The Authority proposes to carry out an in-depth testing of the Road, identify the exact cause of the problem, and propose and design long-term solutions.

Cabinet has also taken note of measures taken to alleviate traffic congestion at the entrance of Port Louis. L'Abattoir Street has, now, been opened to traffic, and works for the opening of a third lane from Riche Terre roundabout to Quay D have already started and are expected to be completed by the end of February 2015.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade depositing the instrument of acceptance of the Protocol incorporating the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation into the Marrakesh Agreement that established the WTO. The Agreement requires developing countries to classify trade facilitation in categories depending on the period of their implementation. The International Chamber of Commerce has estimated that the implementation of the Agreement would contribute to the growth of world trade by some one trillion USD and create some 21 million employment.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Office of Public Sector Governance to close down the Overseas News Service of the Government Information Service in view of availability of substitutes to the Overseas News Bulletin, development in the IT-related news sector, and the relatively high cost of operation. The Overseas News Service reproduces and propagates information from Reuters and Agence France Presse. The number of paying subscribers for hard copies of the Overseas News Bulletin has declined from 96 in 2010 to 29 in 2014 and the operation cost has increased considerably.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the *Accord Cadre de Collaboration et de Partenariat* signed between the *Université de Limoges* (France) and the *Université des Mascareignes* being amended to provide for the *Université de Limoges* to propose a candidate for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the *Université des Mascareignes*. The *Accord Cadre* provides, among others, for the *Université de Limoges* to support the *Université de Mascareignes* to set up its governance, pedagogical and research programmes following the European System LMD – Licence, Master, and Doctorat, the issuance of French “*Diplomes Nationaux*” to students, and the setting up of a team of academics to ensure the proper operation of juries and examinations, and advise on academic programmes at degree and postgraduate levels.

8. Cabinet has agreed to funds being provided to the Fishermen Investment Trust to meet its financial commitments, and its subsequent integration with the Fishermen Welfare Fund based on an appropriate restructuring plan. The Fishermen Investment Trust was set up to empower the fisher community and improve their socio-economic status through the democratisation of fishery resources. However, investment undertaken by the Trust has not yielded expected returns. The integration of both institutions would allow the streamlining of activities and projects for the benefit of fishers.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Health of Small Island Developing States of the World Health Organisation African Region would be held in Mauritius in April/May 2015. The main objectives of the Meeting would be to allow Member States to exchange views and experiences, and monitor achievements made towards the Health Millennium Development Goals. Discussions would be held on issues of importance and priority, such as the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, approaches to substance abuse, and research on community-based intervention strategies. Ministers of Health from Cape Verde, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Seychelles, as well as foreign delegates, including the WHO Regional Director for Africa, would participate in the Meeting.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the National Economic and Social Council has published a Report on “*Income Inequality in Mauritius – The role of Wage Policy*”. The main objective of the study is to understand wage-setting mechanisms in Mauritius. The main recommendations contained in the Report include –

- (a) the reinforcement of the functions of the National Tripartite Committee, which would ultimately pave the way towards the setting up of a National Pay Commission;
- (b) the Pay Research Bureau to concentrate on the review of conditions of service, and act as a facilitator for collective bargaining between Government and the Unions; and
- (c) greater independence to the National Remuneration Board to review minimum wages and conditions of work in sectors falling under its mandate.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Mauritius. The main recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Committee, are –

- (a) early adoption of the Children’s Act to consolidate the legislation covering all aspects of children’s rights;
- (b) the formulation and implementation of a National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan covering all areas under the Convention, including measures concerning children deprived of their family, and victims of trafficking and prostitution; and
- (c) the recruitment of qualified investigators by the Ombudsperson for Children’s Office to effectively receive, investigate and address complaints by children.

12. Cabinet has taken note of further development relating to the grounding of fish carrier Kha Yang at St. Brandon island. In view of weather conditions and in order to avoid any risk of marine pollution, arrangements have been made to have oil booms to prevent oil reaching reefs in case there is a change in the direction of currents. In line with the provision of the Merchant Shipping Act 2007, the Director of Shipping has set up a team to carry out a preliminary inquiry into the circumstances that have led to the grounding of the vessel and make recommendations for future guidance.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management to India where he participated in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015. The theme of the Summit was **Sustainable Development Goals and Dealing with Climate Change**. Discussions focussed, among others, on -

- (a) development of a new economy that would integrate climate, sustainable development goals, food and energy security, assisted by technological innovations; and
- (b) drastic technological changes which are difficult to achieve without upfront public funding and support of the scientific community.

The Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management had meetings with the Hon Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways of India and the Hon Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India on bilateral cooperation.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of a delegation led by the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management to Reunion Island where he had meetings with Mr David Goutx, *Directeur Interregional de Météo France Réunion*; and Colonel D. Paris, *Chef d'État-major de la Zone et de la Protection Civile pour l'Océan Indien* on possible areas of cooperation on disaster management. The Minister also discussed bilateral cooperation with Mr D. Sorain, *Préfet de la Réunion*.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of the following persons as Director of the Board of the Bank of Mauritius –

- (a) Mr Gooroonaden Vydelingum;
- (b) Mr Ranapartab Tacouri;
- (c) Mr Antoine Seeyave;
- (d) Mr Joseph E. Charles Cartier, FCMI; and
- (e) Dr Yousouf Ismaël.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of the following persons as Member of the Monetary Policy Committee -

- (a) Mr Pierre Dinan, GOSK, CSK;
- (b) Dr Nishan Degnarain;

- (c) Mr Mohammad Mushtaq Namdarkhan;
- (d) Mr Guy Wong So; and
- (e) Dr Streevarsen Narrainen.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the following Boards/Committees –

- (a) Dr Kheswar Jankee, Associate Professor at the University of Mauritius, as Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Housing Company Ltd;
- (b) Mr Ayoob Nakhuda, former Financial Secretary, as Chairperson of the Board of the State Investment Corporation Ltd;
- (c) Mr Claude Emmanuel Wong So as Chairperson of the Road Development Authority;
- (d) Mr Goolabchund Goburdhun as Chairperson of the Board of the Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank Ltd;
- (e) Mr Chundur (Chand) Bhadain as Chairperson of the Board of the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd;
- (f) Mr Vishal Mauracheea as Chairperson of the National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship Council;
- (g) Dr Jawaharlall Lallchand as Chairperson of the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd;
- (h) Mr Muhammad Yoosuf Sale mohamed as Chairperson of Enterprise Mauritius. He is also Navigator to drive the design of the National Export Strategy which is currently being undertaken with the assistance of the International Trade Centre; and
- (i) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government as Chairperson of the Board of the Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Arvind Gowree Sankar Radhakrishna as Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Mauritius.
