

CABINET DECISIONS – 2 OCTOBER 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Flag Bill in the National Assembly. The main objectives of the Bill are to provide for the better protection of the national flag of Mauritius by regulating its use, and to criminalize the display of the flag of inappropriate specifications, and any behaviour which dishonours the flag, taking into consideration that the flag is a representation of the unique identity of our sovereign and independent State.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the measures proposed by the World Bank to enhance the ease-of-doing business environment, as well as the international competitiveness of Mauritius. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a High Powered Committee, chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, to monitor the implementation of the measures in order to make Mauritius the most business-friendly country in the region and the number one among the middle income countries.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the incorporation of the Highlands City Ltd which will be responsible for the Highlands Administrative City. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance of Economic Development to monitor the implementation of the Highlands Administrative City Project.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security taking appropriate measures to address the problem of fruit losses specially mango, litchi and banana, caused by bats.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the rate of unemployment has fallen from 8.7% in the first quarter of 2015 to 7.8% in the second quarter of 2015 with the creation of 13,500 employment since January 2015. It is expected that this trend will continue with the forthcoming implementation of major development projects.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the draft initial market access offers of Mauritius in the context of the negotiations on the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). The draft text of the TISA is the framework document setting out the principles and the various disciplines that would govern trade in the Services Sector among participating countries. It contains provisions relating to the basic principles of non-discrimination, such as the Most Favoured Nation Treatment and the National Treatment Clauses, in addition to the provisions on transparency, domestic regulations, dispute resolution, the treatment of monopolies and the exclusive service suppliers. The Annexes to the framework document contain measures affecting trade in specific sectors within the services cluster, such as financial services, tourism, telecommunications, etc.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the final Workshop of the ACP Sugar Research Programme (ACP-SRP) would be held in Mauritius from 5 to 7 October 2015. The main objective of the Workshop is to take stock of the results of the research and innovative projects undertaken by research centres and partners collaborating in the Programme. The ACP-SRP aims at enhancing the capability of the sugar cane industries in ACP countries to make the transition to a more open and less protected sugar market. Some 50 foreign delegates are expected to participate in the Workshop.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Mauritius Museums Board with Mr Bernard S.C. Li Kwong Ken as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of the National Library with Mr Indurdeo Bassant as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Opticians Registration Board with the Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life as Chairperson.
