

CABINET DECISIONS – 13 NOVEMBER 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to the review of the Petroleum Pricing Mechanism and amendments being made to the Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Petroleum Products) Regulations 2011 with a view to allowing consumers to benefit from the decrease in prices of Mogas and Gas Oil on the world market.

2. With a view to promoting Mauritius as a gateway for financial services and ICT in Africa, Cabinet has agreed to CNBC, an American cable, internet and satellite business news channel, setting up a studio in Mauritius at the MBC. CNBC (Mtius) will broadcast financial and business-themed documentaries and interviews conducted in Mauritius to African countries. CNBC (Mtius) will also be available on local channels and My.T.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to India, the Indian Government had agreed to grant a loan, at zero interest rate, for the construction of 10,000 houses. In this connection, an Indian delegation recently visited Mauritius to finalize all modalities.

4. Cabinet has agreed to consultations being held with stakeholders to finalize the following draft reports before their submission to the relevant UN Committees and the African Commission –

- (a) the 4th periodic report on the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment for period 2011-2015 that provides information on action taken by Government to implement the provision of the Convention; and
- (b) the 5th periodic report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for period 2005-2015, and the 6th to 8th combined periodic reports on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights for period 2009-2015 that relate to the civil and political rights of people.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Third Alert Cyber Drill for Africa would be held in Mauritius in April 2016. The main objectives of the Cyber Drill are to develop the national capacity of member countries to facilitate further development within the area of national critical information infrastructure protection, and enhance the national expertise on cyber security whilst reducing the human capacity gap in cyber security. Some 60 participants from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) member countries would attend the Drill.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in line with the aim of Government to forge new relationships across the world, and as enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019 and Vision 2030. Côte d'Ivoire has a population of approximately 23.3 million people, a relatively high income per capita (USD 1,460 in 2014), and plays a key role in transit trade for neighbouring countries. Côte d'Ivoire is a member of the UN, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Francophonie and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of countries.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, shortly, release the "Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2014", which provides data on population trends and vital rates, family planning and health service points.

8. Cabinet has taken note that, in line with Government objective to boost the SME Sector, technical assistance would be sought under the COMESA Technical Cooperation Facility for the formulation of strategies and policies for the industrial diversification and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Sector. The main objective of the project is to develop strategies, policies and an action plan that would foster the growth and modernisation of the Sector and focus on promoting the development of new fields of activities.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare on the occasion of the Universal Children's Day 2015. The theme retained this year is "**Valoriz Drwa Zanfan Morisien**". The following activities would be organised –

- (a) an official celebration, comprising, *inter alia*, traditional games, creativity and group activities, at the SSR Botanic Garden;
- (b) an *Atelier Populaire* in Rose-Hill; and
- (c) a *chaine humaine* along the main road of Rivière Noire, followed by a Creativity Workshop.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to Reunion Island. The main objective of the visit was to discuss renewable energy and energy efficiency, and identify areas of cooperation with the relevant institutions of Reunion Island. The Minister had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mr David Lorion, Vice-President of the *Conseil Régional*, who confirmed the support of the *Conseil* in the field of sustainable development; and
- (b) Mr Maurice Barate, Secretary General of the *Préfecture* with whom he discussed the signing of a new *Accord Cadre* in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

A Round Table was also organized with the operators of the private sector which showed keen interest in the development of renewable energy projects in Mauritius.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to South Africa. The main objectives of the mission were to –

- (a) conduct a series of focused meetings with potential South African investors with a view to unlocking any constraints impeding the implementation/realization of their respective projects;
- (b) promote and attract interests from investors in the Africa Strategy that is being implemented by Government; and
- (c) promote Mauritius as a platform and business hub for South African businesses to invest in the region.

The Minister had meetings with potential investors from various sectors of activities, including manufacturing, gold and diamond trading, aquaculture, financial services, ICT and outsourcing, film and media, aviation, education and logistics.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport to Singapore and the Republic of Korea. In the Republic of Korea, the Minister participated in the 25th World Road Congress. The theme of the Conference was "**Roads and Mobility: Creating new value from transport**". The Conference grouped road experts and decision makers to deliberate on issues related to the development, operation and maintenance of roads/tunnels, as well as on associated issues, such as mobility, land transport and road safety. The Minister had meetings, among others, with the Assistant Minister of Land, Transport and Infrastructure on avenues of cooperation, particularly in the Road Decongestion Programme.

In Singapore, the Minister had working sessions, *inter alia*, with –

- (a) Mr Khaw Boon Wai, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister of Transport regarding assistance in the fields related to land transport development;
- (b) Mr Mohinder Singh, Advisor to the Land Transport Authority on assistance in planning, design and project management of roads, bridges and tunnels; and
- (c) the Urban Development Authority that was prepared to assist to integrate land transport planning into township planning.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Environment and Natural Resources Management held in Botswana. The Meeting reviewed progress on the implementation of existing programmes, considered and approved new regional policies, strategies and programmes in the forestry, fisheries, wildlife and environment sectors, and discussed and adopted a regional common position for the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) to be held in Paris in December 2015.

14. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius participated in the 13th Round of the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) negotiations. 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.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Managing Committee of the Probation Hostel for Boys with Mr Hassam Suffee as Chairperson;
- (b) the Managing Committee of the Probation Home for Girls with Mrs Sheela Baguant, CSK, OSK as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Committee of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Trust Fund with Mr Tayonand Baboorun as Chairperson.

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