

CABINET DECISIONS – 21 AUGUST 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note that, following the judgment of the Supreme Court, all biometric data would be deleted from the Mauritius National Identity Card Database and the system would be reviewed and upgraded. Accordingly, the Singaporean team would proceed with the deletion of the data from 24 August to 11 September 2015, and all Identity Card Centres would be temporarily closed. No registration, replacement or issuance of cards would take place during that period.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the following documents being signed during the State Visit of HE Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, -

- (a) an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption providing for citizens of Mauritius and Ghana, holding a valid passport, being permitted to enter, exit, and transit without a visa, and also stay temporarily for a cumulative period of a maximum of 90 days in a calendar year in the territory of either party;
- (b) an Agreement setting out the framework of cooperation, and formalizing mechanisms to design, plan, develop, market, maintain and manage two Technology Parks in Tema in the Republic of Ghana;
- (c) a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of standardization, quality assurance, metrology, conformity assessment, pre-shipment and post-shipment inspection, and training between the Mauritius Standards Bureau and the Ghana Standards Authority; and
- (d) a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, and Scientific Research.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Poverty Reduction with the International Poverty Reduction Center of the People's Republic of China. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, *inter alia*, for cooperation in poverty reduction, social development exchange, joint research and capacity building; sharing of knowledge and experience on poverty reduction, and promotion of industrial investment.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation, on a pilot basis, of remedial education programmes at Year 1 (Foundation Year) of primary schooling in those schools that had had a pass rate of less than 68% at CPE 2014 Examinations. The programmes, that would constitute one of the fundamental pillars of the nine-year continuous basic schooling, would be conducted by specialized and trained teachers, and aim at addressing the learning needs of targeted groups of pupils who lag behind and have not mastered specific competencies.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the elaboration of a regulatory framework for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Continental Shelf of Mauritius. A new Petroleum Bill and the Seabed Minerals Bill would, shortly, be introduced in the National Assembly. The Bills would provide, among others, for the exploration, mining, development and production of petroleum, and set guidelines for the conduct of mining operations. The Bills would be supplemented by a number of Codes, such as the Fiscal and Taxation Code, the Environment Code of Practice and the Offshore Petroleum Safety Code.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government would make the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service (Special Assistance) Regulations to provide for a person or an organisation making an application for special assistance to the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service against payment of the prescribed fee. The special assistance can be for non-emergency situations, such as shooting of films, flushing of premises, and supply of water, or as stand-by emergency cover for special events, such as fair, cultural show, fireworks display, concert in sport arena, laser display, exhibition, and public gathering on public way and private premises. The fees were last prescribed in 1953.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to Malaysia and Singapore where he discussed development of Ocean Economy, setting up of Mauritius as a Maritime Centre, the construction of smart cities and technopoles, the Regional Budget Airline Company, and the setting up of a Legacy Sovereign Fund for future generations.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms and Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Malaysia and Singapore where he had meetings, among others, with Dato Sri Idris Jala, Minister in Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia on good governance, the Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Stock Exchange on a strategic alliance to set up a dual capital market hub between the Stock Exchange of Mauritius and the Singapore Stock Exchange, representatives of NEC on the deletion of biometric data from the Mauritius National Identity Card Database and the former Director of the Singapore National Computer Board on assistance in the drafting of the Smart ICT National Plan.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the National Price Consultative Council with Mr John Lam Choo as Chairperson, and comprising, *inter alia*, Mr Raju Jadoo, Mr Pascal Yen Fong, Mr Naraja Raj Appadu as representatives of business organizations, and Mr Georges Chin-Fee Ah-Yan, and Mr Emam Mosadeq Sahebodin as representatives of consumer associations.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Dental Council of Mauritius.
