

CABINET DECISIONS – 04 DECEMBER 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to households, whose monthly water consumption does not exceed 6 cubic metres, being provided with water, free of charge, as from 1 January 2016, as announced in Budget Speech 2015–2016. These households, if connected to the waste water network, would also be exempted from the payment of waste water charges. Some 63,858 households would be provided with water free of charge, and 11,725 consumers connected freely to the waste water network.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the price of imported live goats and sheep being fixed at Rs185/kg and Rs200/kg respectively, instead of the current price of Rs300/kg for both, for the period from 07 December 2015 to 20 January 2016. The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands and the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection are holding working sessions and consultations with importers of live cattle, butchers and chicken breeders on the price of fresh meat, including beef, goat, sheep and chicken.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister, participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Malta from 27 to 29 November 2015. The theme of CHOGM 2015 was “ **The Commonwealth: Adding Global Value**”. The Meeting discussed, among others, Economic and Development Issues, Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Good Governance, Migration, Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation, and Safeguarding the Interests of Commonwealth Small States.

The Prime Minister also attended the launching of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub which was held in the presence of the Prime Ministers of Australia and Malta, and the Commonwealth Secretary General. The Hub, which will be hosted in Mauritius, will help build capacity of Commonwealth Small and Climate Vulnerable States to access climate finance with regional support.

During the Retreat organized to enable Heads of Government exchange views on global issues, the Prime Minister raised the issue of Mauritius sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago with particular reference to the UNCLOS Arbitral Award.

The Prime Minister also attended the opening of the Commonwealth Business Forum and was a keynote speaker in the meeting on “Financial and Professional Services: Delivering Jobs and Growth”.

In the margins of CHOGM, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Malta, the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, and President Nyusi of Mozambique on issues of bilateral interest, particularly the development of financial services, the ocean economy, and tourism, and the situation of Small Island Developing States.

Cabinet has also taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Prime Minister to Dubai where he met the Chairperson of Emirates Airlines, Sheik Ahmed Al Maktoum, with whom he discussed a number of issues pertaining to employment opportunities, and reduction of airfares.

Following a request of the Prime Minister, the Dubai authorities have agreed to waive visa requirements for all Government officials with effect from December 2015 and thereafter consideration will be given for this waiver to be applicable to all Mauritians.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Additional Remuneration (2016) Bill in the National Assembly at its Sitting on 11 December 2015. The Bill provides for the payment of additional remuneration to employees of the private sector.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Captive Insurance Bill in the National Assembly at its Sitting on 11 December 2015. The object of the Bill is to establish a framework for the licensing, regulation and supervision of captive insurance business.

6. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation to reach the objective of 60% broadband connectivity in Mauritius, as announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019. Broadband Penetration stood at 45% at the beginning of 2015 and is now around 50%. The objective of Government is to reach a near 100% internet penetration rate in the near future with an Internet bandwidth capacity in households of up to 100 Mbps.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research would sign a Memorandum of Understanding for access to and the utilization of football grounds of 46 primary and secondary schools with a view to democratizing sports and leisure activities, and creating a sports culture. The public will have access to the football grounds on Mondays to Fridays from 16 00 hours to 19 30 hours, and on Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays and School Holidays from 10 00 hours to 17 00 hours.

8. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the International Volunteer Day commemorated on 5 December 2015, the Ministry of Youth and Sports would organise a series of activities and launch projects under the National Young Volunteer Scheme, commonly referred to as "Volunteer Mauritius". The motto of 'Volunteer Mauritius' is "**Ansam Anou Konstrir Moris**". The activities to be organised/launched, include –

- (a) *A la découverte des Talents* at Barkly Youth Centre;
- (b) Cleaning and planting at the Dockers Village;

- (c) Cleaning of Beach at Le Goulet Public Beach and Pointe aux Piments;
- (d) Youth Go Green at Nouvelle Decouverte;
- (e) *Fresques Murales* at Mont Roches Youth Centre;
- (f) *Animations Estivales* at Panchavati Community Centre; and
- (g) Special Olympics – a sports day for students of school for handicapped children at Long Mountain.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organisation have decided to nominate Mauritius as a Regional Designated Centre for fruit fly management under the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, as Mauritius successfully managed the disease through the application of appropriate techniques and control measures. Mauritius would, subsequently, host a Study Tour on the integration of Sterile Insect Technique in Fruit Fly Suppression Programme, and the University of Mauritius would run a Regional Certificate Course in Sterile Insect Technique for Fruit Fly Management. Participants from Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the FAO and representative of the SADC Secretariat, would participate in the Study Tour.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Second Edition of the National Inclusive Business Award would be held on 11 December 2015. The National Inclusive Business Award, an initiative of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, aims at rewarding companies that have adopted the inclusive business approach, which is an innovative concept where larger enterprises integrate smaller ones into their value chain.

11. Cabinet has taken note that a Mega Blood Donation would be held on the Esplanade of Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis, on 17 December 2015. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life organizes Mega Blood Donations in December each year to ensure that an adequate stock of blood is available during the festive period of December and January, and the cyclonic period.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security participated in the 102nd Session of the ACP Council of Ministers and the Consultations on Sugar held in Brussels, Belgium from 23 to 25 November 2015. At a meeting held at the EU Commission on Agriculture and Rural Development, the main issues raised were:

- (a) the possible application of the Special Safeguard Clause to regulate sugar prices on the EU market which may affect the ACP sugar exports;
- (b) the in-house study on the impact of the EU market post-2017 on the economies of the ACP sugar producing countries; and
- (c) the funding of Phase II of the ACP Sugar Research Programme.

The 102nd Session of the ACP Council, after considering, *inter alia*, the Report of the Committee of Ambassadors and that of the ACP Secretary General, made decisions and adopted resolutions on issues relating to ACP Agriculture Commodity Trade and Sector Development, Fisheries, and the Paris Climate Change Conference.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to India. She had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) the Hon Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for elderly, disability and NGO;
- (b) Mr J.R. Gupta, President of the Senior Citizens Council of Delhi and Chairperson of the Confederation of Senior Citizens Associations of Delhi, on the exchange of elderly persons; and
- (c) Dr S. Siva Raju, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Population Health and Development Studies on cooperation for the review of the draft National Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Ageing 2015-2020 and capacity building.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training participated in the Sub-regional Conference organised by the International Labour Office (ILO) on 17 and 18 November 2015 to promote the ratification and implementation of the ILO Protocol on Forced Labour. The Conference reviewed the current knowledge and data on the scope of forced labour and trafficking in Africa, and assessed the current action and challenges to prevent and combat Forced Labour Trafficking. In that context, the ILO “50forfreedom” campaign was launched. The campaign is led by the International Labour Organisation, and the UN Agency for the World of Work, together with the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organisation of Employers, and key partners in the global alliance to end forced labour.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the Annual Report of the Town and Country Planning Board for the period ended 31 December 2014. The main functions of the Town and Country Planning Board are to prepare Outline Schemes for each local authority with a view to having a planned development of the island of Mauritius, and review continuously the Outline Schemes to respond to the policies of Government with respect to economic development, environmental sustainability and social equity.
