

CABINET DECISIONS – 14 AUGUST 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Vision 2030 High Powered Committee, which will, henceforth, be known as the “High Powered Committee on Achieving the Second Economic Miracle and Vision 2030”, will be officially launched by the Prime Minister on 22 August 2015 in the Conference Centre of Cyber Tower 1, Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd, Cybercity, Ebène. The objectives of the Committee are, inter alia, to provide strategic direction in the design and implementation of the Vision 2030 Blueprint, and facilitate the implementation of large private sector investment projects.

2. Cabinet has taken note that HE Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, will be on a State Visit to Mauritius from 24 to 26 August 2015. The President of Ghana will, among others, –

- (a) pay a courtesy call on the President of the Republic;
- (b) have a *tête à tête* with the Prime Minister;
- (c) have a working session with the business community; and
- (d) visit the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site, the African Leadership College, and Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Monument of Nature.

During the visit of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements on bilateral cooperation would be signed.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the report of the study on the Introduction of a National Minimum Wage in Mauritius, prepared by the ILO Consultant, Mr François Eyraud, and agreed to the setting up of a National Wage Consultative Council, with statutory powers, to carry out formal consultations and make recommendations to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training on the introduction of a national minimum wage. The terms of reference of the Council will be, among others, to –

- (a) recommend the level at which a National Minimum Wage may be introduced for the lowest paid workers in relation to the median wage;
- (b) make recommendations on lower rates or exemptions for workers, particularly, trainees/apprentices and workers on probation; and
- (c) determine the rate of salary compensation to be paid in relation to the increase in cost of living every year.

4. Cabinet has taken note of health measures taken to assist Hadj pilgrims who would proceed to Saudi Arabia as from 7 September 2015. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would carry out vaccination against meningitis ACYW 135, free of charge, in all regional hospitals on 22 August 2015. Moreover, pilgrims would be medically examined in the Area Health Centres and the Community Health Centres nearest to their place of residence, and vaccinated against the seasonal flu, in the regional hospitals.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, in line with Government Programme, the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) would develop a Mauritian Leadership Brand that will be applicable to all sectors of the economy as a means to enhance productivity and economic growth. The NPCC has retained the services of the Result Based Leadership Group, a global leadership development firm, to, *inter alia*, –

- (a) conduct a survey to measure the current capacity in Mauritius to identify existing gaps;
- (b) build an overall roadmap to ensure execution, geared towards positioning Mauritius as a leader in the region and achieving long term economic growth; and
- (c) provide research-based insights, skills, knowledge, and tools that Mauritian leaders need to leverage the talent of their people and achieve spectacular results.

The leading resource person of the Group is Dr Dave Ulrich, a well-known Writer and Professor of Business at the University of Michigan.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport commissioning an in-depth study on the public transport sector to, among others, shed light on the economics of the sector, assess the impact of the various subsidies attributed to the sector, and set up a more transparent financial support mechanism with a view to improving the sector and making it financially viable.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the increasing interest on the part of different stakeholders for the opening of the extended continental shelf, jointly managed by Mauritius and Seychelles, for the conduct of multi-client surveys which are prerequisites for the commercial exploration of the seabed resources.

Cabinet has agreed to an interim arrangement being put in place pending the setting up of the Designated Authority, provided for in the Treaty on the Joint Management of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region, to carry out the day-to-day management of the natural resource activities in the Joint Management Area. Mauritius and Seychelles would each designate a person to jointly exercise the powers of the Designated Authority.

8. Cabinet has agreed to a Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications looking into the representations made by the Federation of Hotel Taxi Associations and making recommendations.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the Square Kilometre Array Senior Officials Meeting being held in Mauritius in November 2015. The main objectives of the Meeting are, *inter alia*, to –

- (a) finalise the Memorandum of Understanding on the Square Kilometre Array for tabling at the next African Working Group Meeting;
- (b) take stock of the status on engagements with the African Union Commission on the development of the continental African Very Large Baseline Interferometer Network initiative; and
- (c) consider progress in the Plan of Action in the project.

The project, the biggest and most powerful telescope in the world with a collecting area of one million square metres, would survey the sky and provide the highest resolution images in astronomy. The project comprises the following countries as partners – South Africa as the lead partner, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security preparing a Wetlands Bill that would, among others, provide the legal framework for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of wetlands and wetland resources, in line with the international obligation of Mauritius to protect wetlands and their resources. The National Ramsar Committee, that would be formalized in the proposed Bill, would, among others, advise the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security on the development of national wetland policies and strategies, and the implementation of the strategic plan of action prepared by Ramsar Convention for the conservation and improvement of wetlands.

11. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius won a total of 185 medals, i.e., 66 gold, 49 silver and 70 bronze, and ranked 2nd, after Reunion Island, at the Indian Ocean Islands Games. The performance of the athletes was the best ever recorded in the Games. The best performances of Mauritius were in Weightlifting (21 gold medals), Handisport (12 gold medals) and Badminton (all 7 gold medals at stake).

12. Cabinet has taken note of the Climate Change Charter for Local Authorities developed by the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management in line with the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework. The main objective of the Charter is to mainstream climate change in the day-to-day management and long term planning at the level of the local authority for the benefit of local communities, namely, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, mainstream adaptation in development planning, adoption and implementation of mitigation measures, dissemination of climate change related information to local communities, and promotion of the involvement of the civil society to combat climate change.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Civil Service Kermesse, organized by the Public Officers' Welfare Council, will be held on 8 November 2015 at the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas. The Civil Service Kermesse is one of the most popular activities where public officers, their families and members of the public have the opportunity to meet and interact in a friendly atmosphere.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the President of the Republic has been advised to revise the subscription fees to the *Government Gazette*, and the charges paid for the publication of notices and advertisements in the *Gazette* as from 1 November 2015 to cover the cost of publication. The subscription fees were last revised in 1981, and the charges payable for the publication of notices and advertisements in 1984.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms to the United Kingdom in the context of promoting Mauritius as an international financial services centre. He had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Ms Inga Beale, Chief Executive Officer of Lloyds and Mr Matt Lilley, Chief Executive of Prudential Africa plc, on investment and economic development in Mauritius;
- (b) the National Crime Agency on collaboration in the fight against white collar crimes;
- (c) Mr Donald Toon, Director Economic Crime Command, on assistance for the creation of the Financial Crime Commission; and
- (d) Mr Allan Hislop, Director of the UK Financial Intelligence Unit, on cooperation on operational matters and capacity building.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms would, shortly, introduce the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Bill in the National Assembly. The objective of the Bill would be to stimulate optimal performance in public and private sectors organizations coupled with good governance through effective reporting and other processes, and, at the same time, deter and expose malpractices and minimize damage caused by false and malicious allegations.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms to the Republic of Maldives where he represented Mauritius in the celebrations marking the 50th Independence Anniversary of the country. In the margins of the celebrations, the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms had meetings with his Maldivian counterparts on bilateral cooperation.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Petroleum Pricing Committee with Mr Shailendra Kumar Singh Dusowoth as Chairperson. The main objectives of the Petroleum Pricing Committee are to –

- (a) stabilize retail price of Mogas and Gas Oil on the local market;
- (b) reconcile price evolution on the world market with the price on the local market; and
- (c) provide a transparent and stable pricing system for petroleum products.
