

CABINET DECISIONS – 20 NOVEMBER 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing a framework on code share arrangements with the Government of Japan. The Agreement would enable Air Mauritius to code share with the partner airlines of Japan, such as Hong Kong Airlines and Malaysia Airlines, to market points in Japan. The conclusion of the framework would enhance connectivity between Africa and Asia through Mauritius as announced in the Economic Mission Statement, and the air corridor would be an opportunity for Air Mauritius to tap the traffic between Asia/South East Asia and Africa.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Policy Framework and Procedures for the allocation of State land as enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019. All applications for State land, an additional plot of State land, change in purpose, and transfer of ownership will have to be endorsed by Cabinet. The Framework rationalizes and streamlines the process of allocation of State land, sets out the main stages for the processing of applications for State land, and ensures that the process is fair, transparent and accountable. The Framework also subscribes to the principles of good governance.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee on Residential Care Institutions/Shelters for Children. The Committee has made recommendations to address shortcomings identified and for reforms to be undertaken for ensuring a special protection in the best interests of the child. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has already put in place a mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Municipal City Council of Port Louis being invited to consider the implementation of measures to better manage hawking activities in Port Louis during the end of year festivities, keeping in line with the judgment of the Supreme Court. The Municipal City Council of Port Louis would, *inter alia*, issue an identification badge to registered hawkers, as well as to those who regularly ply their trade in Port Louis during the festive period, and conspicuously install “No Hawking” signposts where necessary.

5. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius recognizing anew the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) as a sovereign State. In line with the aim of Government to forge new relationships across the world as enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019, the recognition of the SADR as a sovereign and independent state, is a reaffirmation of the support of Mauritius for the inalienable right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

6. Cabinet has taken note that amendments will be brought to the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015 to –

- (a) ban, in the first instance, plastic bags designed for carrying goods purchased by customers or provided at a retail point of sale;
- (b) redefine 'plastic' to allow for the import, manufacture, sale or supply of biodegradable plastic bags and compostable plastic bags; and
- (c) allow the use of long lasting bags other than non-woven polypropylene bags.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Urdu Speaking Union, in collaboration with the Indian High Commission, will organize the Third World Urdu Conference from 26 to 28 November 2015.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the new National Action Plan on Tobacco Control for the Year 2015-2018. The Action Plan focuses on the strategic use of information, education, training and public awareness, on health threats of tobacco use and the harmful effects of exposure to second-hand smoke.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of the Executive Performance Management Review (EPMR) for Supervising Officers of Ministries/Departments in the context of the implementation of the Performance Management System. The EPMR aims at rendering Supervising Officers more responsible and accountable for the overall performance of their respective organizations based on five generic Key Result Areas and specific Key Performance Indicators with respect to their core services. The EPMR will be introduced on a trial basis as from January 2016.

10. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being made to the Jewellery (Verification and Grading of Precious and Semi-Precious Stones) Regulations 2009 with a view to enabling the Assay Office to provide the services for sealing of precious and semi-precious stones against payment of an appropriate fee. The project aims at building customer confidence, enhancing customer satisfaction, and ensuring that authentic precious and semi-precious stones that are being sold on the market, are as per the report on the certificate of authenticity.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the International Conference on the Mauritian Diaspora would be held in Mauritius from 2 to 4 December 2015. The theme of the Conference will be **“Mauritian Diaspora in Question: Trajectories and Connections”**. The Conference aims, *inter alia*, at building up scholarly knowledge of the diaspora and creating an awareness of the challenges confronting the diasporic community. Some 75 participants, including eminent members of the diasporic Mauritian community, would attend the Conference. Keynote speakers will include Prof E. Duyker, former Honorary Reader at the University of Sydney, Australia and Prof V. Chinapah from the Institute of International Education of Stockholm University, Sweden.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized in the context of International Day Against Violence Against Women 2015, commemorated on 25 November. The theme for this year is **“From peace in the home to peace in the world: make education safe for all”**. The slogan retained by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare is *“kontign to langazman kont violans”*. The activities that would be organized, include –

- (a) an awareness programme on “Gender-Based Violence at the Workplace”;
- (b) an exchange programme via video conferencing between *Groupement de Cooperation Sociale et Medico-Sociale* of Reunion Island and NGOs working on domestic violence in Mauritius;
- (c) a National Campaign on Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence against Women; and
- (d) the launching of a Directory of Services.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to China and Dubai.

In China, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands was accompanied, *inter alia*, by the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. The Vice-Prime Minister had meetings with leading companies to which he highlighted the numerous qualities of Mauritius as an attractive investment destination in order to attract potential businessmen. The Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, in the presence of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Poverty Reduction with the International Poverty Reduction Centre 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 and promotion of industrial investment.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands visited Dubai where he had meetings with Sheik Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, owner of Emirates Airline on technical assistance to and the reinforcement of the code share of Air Mauritius. He also met potential investors to whom he exposed the business opportunities and facilities available in Mauritius. The Vice-Prime Minister had also meetings on the review of the Hadj organization with a view to ensuring timely preparation, better coordination and putting in place appropriate security facilities.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research participated in the Cambridge Assessment Conference on 'Gender Divide in Education' held in London. In the margins of the Conference, she had meetings with -

- (a) representatives of Cambridge International Examinations on strategic issues, including the implementation of the Nine-Year Continuous Basic Schooling Project;
- (b) a high level team from the Imperial College on the reassessment of post-graduate students of DY Patil Medical College;
- (c) representatives of the University College London on cooperation in the field of capacity building for school leaders and teachers; and
- (d) the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat on cooperation on reforms in the Tertiary Sector.

In France, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research attended the 38th Session of UNESCO General Conference, as well as a parallel session on Education Agenda 2030 Framework For Action and a SIDS meeting. The Minister also had meetings with the President of L'Université de Limoges on cooperation between the 'Université des Mascareignes' and the 'Université de Limoges', especially in the context of the '*Accord Cadre de Collaboration et de Partenariat*' between the two Universities.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life participated in the 1st International Conference of Primary Care and Public Health at the invitation of the Imperial College, London, and delivered the keynote statement on primary health care. The theme of the Conference was "**Seeing the person behind the patient**". In the margins of the Conference, the Minister, among others, discussed the possibility for Mauritius and the Imperial College, London, to work together for the conduct of training programmes for health professionals, for Mauritius and other countries in the region.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government effected a study tour at the Manchester City Council, United Kingdom in the context of the review of the Local Government Act. The Minister had discussions with Mr Paul Murphy, Lord Mayor of Manchester; Ms Sue Murphy, Deputy Leader of the Council, and Mr David Houliston, Policy and Partnerships Executive, on issues, such as the system for the election of councilors, the devolution process, and budget.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Sugar Investment Trust with Mr Preetam Boodhun as Chairperson;
- (b) the Traditional Medicine Board with the Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of Trustees of *La Clinique Mauricienne*.

18. Cabinet has also taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Pharmacy Board with the Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Advisory Committees set up under the Pharmacy Act, namely –
 - (i) the Education Committee with the Director Pharmaceutical Services as Chairperson;
 - (ii) the Trade and Therapeutics Committee with the Acting Director Health Services as Chairperson;
 - (iii) the Poisons Committee with the Director Pharmaceutical Services as Chairperson; and
 - (iv) the Planning Committee with the Acting Director Health Services as Chairperson.
