

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 22 MAY 2015**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of an independent Police Complaints Commission, separate from the National Human Rights Commission, in line with Government Programme 2015-2019. The main objectives of the Commission would be to deal, expeditiously, with complaints against police officers and further consolidate the fundamental rights of citizens. The Commission would be composed of a former Judge of the Supreme Court as Chairperson, and two other members with the relevant qualifications and experience.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a High Level Committee to look into employability in various sectors of the economy, the skills mismatch issue, manpower training and development, and related issues in the context of the implementation of major projects as enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the Report on the “Economic, Social and Environmental Impact on Mauritius of Abolition of Internal Quotas of Sugar in EU Market”. The main recommendations of the Report are as follows –

- (a) sale of special sugars and white refined sugar to the EU will remain the primary focus of Mauritian sugar exports;
- (b) more focused training schemes for workers in employment should be introduced in order to increase their contribution to the overall performance of the enterprise;
- (c) new shares to accrue to active employees and planters in value-added entities;
- (d) expansion of the amount of sugar covered by the Fairtrade Initiative from 22,000 tonnes to some 40,000 tonnes;
- (e) continuation of the regrouping and mechanisation schemes;
- (f) cessation of exports of molasses to privilege local value addition; and
- (g) increase in the transfer price of bagasse.

The Report also includes institutional changes and amendments to legislations. A High Level Implementation Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, would be set up to examine the Report and initiate appropriate actions. The Committee would also examine the optimisation of cane through its diversified use, including the production of renewable energy.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the enlistment of the services of National Technical Directors for various sports, viz., weightlifting, boxing, basketball, badminton, volleyball, cycling, table tennis, golf and judo, in the context of the preparation and participation in the Indian Ocean Islands Games 2015. The National Technical Directors, high profile sports specialists, are responsible for the designing and implementation of high level strategic programmes to help athletes attain peak performances in sporting events.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that an International Workshop "Asia-Pacific Meet" on Blood Donation would be held in Mauritius from 29 to 31 May 2015. The theme of the Workshop will be "**Achieving 100% voluntary non-remunerated safe blood donation by 2020**". The purpose of the Workshop is to enable the Blood Donors Association and other stakeholders involved in blood collection activities to share their experience in canvassing and mounting activities for blood collection, and adopt measures on how to motivate blood donation and ensure blood safety.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized to mark the World Blood Donor Day 2015, commemorated on 14 June. The theme chosen by the World Health Organisation is "**Thank you for saving my life**". The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, in collaboration with stakeholders, would –

- (a) organize an educational Open Day at the National Blood Transfusion Service to create awareness on the importance of voluntary blood donation, and the concept of blood safety;
- (b) launch sensitization campaigns on blood donation; and
- (c) launch a souvenir magazine, and distribute pamphlets to promote participation in blood collection.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the 9th PAN African Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies would be held in Mauritius in July 2016. The main objectives of the Conference are to promote growth and development of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and deliberate on regional and international issues that affect humanitarian and development work in Africa. Some 1,000 delegates from 189 National Red Cross Societies from around the world would attend the Conference.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the 1,670 metric tons of contaminated white wheat flour have been destroyed. The State Trading Corporation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, has taken appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of such circumstances.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that a number of cases of dengue fever has been reported in the region of Tombeau Bay. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, and the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management, has taken appropriate measures to avoid stagnation of water during rainfall, and mounted a larviciding and spraying campaign to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms advising the President of the Republic to make the Civil Establishment Order 2015 and the Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) Order 2015. The Orders establish offices in the public service, determine the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices and the emoluments to be attached to such offices.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that, following consultations with all parties concerned, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has decided to prohibit hunting from 13 to 15 June 2015 in view of the Municipal City and Town Councils Elections.

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12. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius acceding to the Arms Trade Treaty of the United Nations. The objectives of the Treaty are to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, and prevent their diversion for the purpose of contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, and promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Arts and Culture to Paris in the context of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the National Archives of Mauritius at UNESCO Headquarters. The National Archives is one of the oldest archival institution in the Southern Hemisphere. An exhibition, showcasing the evolution of the National Archives and documents preserved, was organised. The Minister of Arts and Culture had meetings, among others, with Mr Alfredo Perez de Arminan, Assistant Director General for Culture, on Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site and the International Indenture Labour Route Project.

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