

CABINET DECISIONS – 28 AUGUST 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the following Bills in the National Assembly –
- (a) the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency Bill that provides for the establishment of the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency for the purpose of promoting the development and use of renewable energy;
 - (b) the Roads (Amendment) Bill that gives greater powers to a highway authority to prevent the illegal discharge of water, soil or refuse from any private property on a road or into a road drain; and
 - (c) the Pharmacy Council Bill that provides for better regulation of the profession of pharmacist and the establishment of the Pharmacy Council of Mauritius. The Council will, *inter alia*, -
 - (i) register pharmacists and pre-registration trainees;
 - (ii) temporarily register non-citizens, other than non-citizens who are residents of Mauritius, as foreign pharmacists or visiting pharmacists;
 - (iii) exercise and maintain discipline in the profession of pharmacists; and
 - (iv) promote advancement in the field of pharmacy.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the team from Imperial College, London and led by Professor Ricky Banarsee, had, in its preliminary review, recommended the following course of action to facilitate the registration of postgraduate students of D.Y. Patil Medical College by the Medical Council of Mauritius –

- (a) the reassessment of the clinical competency of the students by an Extraordinary Postgraduate Medical Committee;
- (b) the award of a Certificate of Completion once the competency of a student has been established for eventual registration by the Medical Council of Mauritius; and
- (c) the design of top-up programmes for students requiring same with a completion period not exceeding six months.

In this context, a team from the Imperial College, comprising eight medical specialists, would be in Mauritius shortly and work individually and specialty-wise with each of the postgraduate students of D.Y. Patil Medical College for the reassessment exercise. A team of local specialists would also form part of the Extraordinary Postgraduate Medical Committee.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the projects that will be implemented by the National Development Unit across the country during Financial Year 2015-2016. The projects include construction of drains, construction and renovation of children's playgrounds, upgrading of roads, construction of sports facilities and bus shelters/stands, landscaping works, and construction of a market fair at Goodlands. An Inter-Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, has been set up to oversee and monitor the implementation of the projects.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the different components of the new Road Decongestion Programme that comprises –

- (a) the construction of a grade separated junction at Jumbo/Phoenix/Dowlut Roundabouts to improve traffic flows, reduce travel time and vehicle operating costs (estimated cost Rs2.4 billion);
- (b) the replacement of Mer Rouge Roundabout by a grade separator on Motorway M1 to relocate the entrance into Port Louis from the North and cancel the current traffic light system (estimated cost Rs1.2 billion);
- (c) the construction of A1-M1 New Road, Bridge and Interchange at Sorèze to link Coromandel A1 road to Motorway M1 to ease access from Coromandel (estimated cost Rs2.4 billion);
- (d) the construction of A3-A1 Link Road from Gros Cailloux to Coromandel to enable rapid connection of traffic from the West to the City Centre and to the North via the new A1-M1 Link Road (estimated cost Rs0.2 billion); and
- (e) the construction of Port Louis Ring Road, including Tunnel and connection to the City Centre (Volcy Pougnet Street) and onward to Motorway M2 via Champ de Mars to reduce traffic congestion in the City of Port Louis (estimated cost Rs7.1 billion).

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Local Government would make the Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund (Housing Loan) (Amendment) Regulations to increase the ceiling of the housing loan provided by the Fund from Rs600,000 to Rs1 million.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Singapore Corporation Enterprise has already started the deletion of biometric data from the Mauritius National Identity Card Database. The exercise is expected to be completed by 11 September 2015. New procedures are being worked out for the registration of applications for the ID Cards, including the use of an appropriate Affidavit.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to Thailand and Singapore. The main objective of the mission was to familiarize with the policies and measures implemented by those countries for the development of the SME Sector, and look into how those measures could be implemented to improve the processes of local enterprises to enhance their productivity and increase their contribution to job creation and income generation. The Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Dr Supot Arevant, Managing Director of the SME Bank of Thailand, on SME banking;
- (b) Ms Dolly Goh, Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore National Cooperative Federation, on the development of the cooperative sector; and
- (c) Ms Jacqueline Poh, Managing Director of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, on the development of ICT schemes and solutions for SME's.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Rodrigues where he had working sessions with the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners, and reviewed the provision of health services in Rodrigues. A Joint Health Monitoring Committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of remedial measures, and follow up on issues raised.

Cabinet has also taken note that a first batch of Rodriguan Nurses had successfully completed the Top-up Diploma Nursing Course, which was dispensed in Rodrigues.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Rodrigues where she had meetings with the Chief Commissioner and the Deputy Chief Commissioner on the contribution of women to economic growth through their socio-economic empowerment, the role of families in ensuring the harmonious development of children, and the strengthening of measures for the protection of victims of domestic violence. She also met members of Women's Associations with whom she had discussions on, *inter alia*, women's empowerment and gender equality, and the role of women's associations.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Cooperative Law Advisory Committee with Mrs Karuna Devi Gunesh-Balaghee, Acting Parliamentary Counsel, as Chairperson. The Committee would examine and make recommendations on reforms that should be brought to the cooperative legislation, codes, and guidelines necessary for the effective functioning of the Cooperative Sector.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Jewellery Advisory Council with Mr Teswar Rai Ramkhalawon as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of the National Art Gallery with Mrs Marie Noëlle Dorine Ng Shew Ha Kim-Soo, MSK, as Chairperson; and
- (c) the National Road Safety Council with the Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, as Chairperson.
