

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 MARCH 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius joining the Trade in Services Agreement Negotiations. The General Agreement of Trade in Services, an integral part of the World Trade Organisation, calls upon Member States to progressively liberalize trade in services through successive rounds of negotiations. In the circumstances, 24 countries, two customs territories, and one economic union have decided to proceed with a plurilateral approach through the negotiation of a Trade in Services Agreement. On joining the Trade in Services Agreement, Mauritius would offer the same market access conditions to WTO Members, as those proposed to the EU in the context of the Economic Partnership Agreement.

2. Cabinet has taken note that a Memorandum of Understanding on Ayurvedic and Traditional Medicine would be signed with the Government of India during the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India to Mauritius. The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas –

- (a) promotion, including the regulation, of teaching, practice, and drugs and drugless therapies;
- (b) exchanging experts for training of practitioners, paramedics, scientists, teaching professionals and students;
- (c) mutual recognition of pharmacopoeias and formularies;
- (d) setting up of Academic Chairs; and
- (e) providing scholarships for education in recognised institutions.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Security of the Republic of Gabon signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of fisheries, marine and freshwater aquaculture, and fish processing to boost trade, economic exchanges and transfer of technology.

4. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements made by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to carry out the Anti-Influenza Vaccination Programme for the 2015 winter season. The Programme, that would start on 22 April 2015, would cover persons aged 60 and above, children with disabilities attending specialized schools, and inmates of charitable institutions and private licenced homes. The vaccination programme would also be carried out in Rodrigues.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport is making arrangements to relocate some speed cameras in more visible places.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport has made arrangements for the construction of a bypass of about 450 metres along that part of the Terre Rouge-Verdun Link Road near Ripailles, where snags have been found, to allow temporary diversion of traffic. Works would be completed by the end of March 2015.

7. Cabinet has taken note that, under the “*Prévention Nationale Pour Maladies Non-Transmissibles*” Programme, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would carry out national health screening activities at worksites and in secondary schools. The objective of the Programme is to bring screening and counselling services for non-communicable diseases closer to the population with a view to detecting and treating diseases at an early stage. Under the Programme, the following activities would be carried out -

- (a) sensitization campaign on diabetes, as well as counselling and education on the risk factors of non-communicable diseases;
- (b) screening services for diabetes, hypertension, vision and obesity;
- (c) screening of cervical cancer for sexually active women, and breast cancer for women aged 30 years and above; and
- (d) sensitization campaign on the importance of practising regular physical activities, as well as food hygiene and environmental sanitization.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Project Coordination Meeting, and the Evaluation and Review of the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Cooperation on Fruit Flies Control would be held in Mauritius in June 2015. The objectives of the Meeting are to assess progress in the implementation of the project and the Memorandum of Understanding on Fruit Flies Control, and discuss further mechanisms of exchange of information, expertise and sharing of resources among parties. Participants from IAEA Member States, namely France, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania, would attend the Meeting.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to mark the World Consumer Rights Day, observed on 15 March. The theme for this year is **Healthy Diets**. Activities that would be held on the occasion, include -

- (a) a national workshop on *Healthy Diets and Consumer Rights*;
- (b) an exhibition of brochures, pamphlets, photographs and posters on the theme; and
- (c) sensitization campaigns on healthy diets.

10. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, also known as the "Mauritius Convention on Transparency". The Convention is an instrument by which Parties to investment treaties express their consent to apply the Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to their existing investment promotion and protection agreements concluded before 1 April 2014. The main objective of signing the Convention is to demonstrate Government's determination to introduce openness and accountability in the field of investor-State arbitration, promote Mauritius as a regional and international arbitration hub, and demonstrate Government's commitment to uphold democratic participation, good governance and the rule of law in the region.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Eighteenth Meeting of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control Committee would be held in Mauritius in September 2015. The Port State Control System aims at verifying whether foreign flagged vessels operating in waters of a State comply with applicable international conventions. The issues that would be discussed at the Meeting, *inter alia*, are -

- (a) Port State Control activities in and outside the Indian Ocean Region;
- (b) harmonisation and improvement on Port State Control;
- (c) Information Exchange System;
- (d) Technical Cooperation Programmes; and
- (e) administrative and financial matters.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to Rodrigues in the context of the National Budget 2015 consultations. He had met economic operators, particularly small entrepreneurs, farmers, fishermen and tourism operators; civil society organisations including those involved in the promotion of education and the fight against poverty; and youth. He also had working sessions with the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioners and the Acting Island Chief Executive.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to the Republic of Uganda where he participated in the 60th Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) Health Community Ministers Conference. The Conference deliberated, among others, on the East African Public Health Laboratory Network Project, the MDG Lessons for Post-2015 Agenda, the Control of Communicable Diseases Programme, and the Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Brussels where he participated in the Second Meeting of ACP Ministers of Health. The theme of the Meeting was **Reflecting on intra-ACP cooperation in Health in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda**. The aim of the Meeting was to exchange views on the challenges and strategies of the health sector in the post-2015 period.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Zambia where he participated in the Sixth Joint COMESA Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. The theme of the Meeting was **Consolidating Intra-COMESA Trade through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development**. The Meeting took note, among others, of the progress report on the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in COMESA Member States that encourages Member States to allocate at least 10% of the Annual Budget to agriculture to enable sector growth of 6% per year.

The Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security also participated in the 38th Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development held in Italy. The theme of the Meeting was **Rural Transformation: Key to Sustainable Development**. Discussions centered on topics pertaining to indigenous peoples, food systems and sustainable development.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –
- (a) the Information and Communication Technologies Advisory Council with Mr Avinash Meetoo as Chairperson;
 - (b) the Board of the Gambling Regulatory Authority with Mr Raouf Gulbul, Barrister-at-Law, as Chairperson;
 - (c) the Board of the Tertiary Education Commission with Mr Surendra Bissoondoyal as Chairperson;
 - (d) the Rights Management Society with Mr George Emmanuel Julien as Chairperson;
 - (e) the Board of the Airport of Rodrigues Ltd. with Mr Claude Wong So as Chairperson;
 - (f) the Board of the Employees Welfare Fund with Mr Dineshrao Babajee as Chairperson;
 - (g) the Board of the Mauritius Sports Council with Mrs Sarah Rawat Currimjee as Chairperson;
 - (h) the Board of the Mauritius Ex-Services Trust Fund with Mr Richard Driver as Chairperson;
 - (i) the Board of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute with Dr Shri Vasant Kumar Jogoo as Chairperson;
 - (j) the Board of the Sugar Insurance Fund with Mr Vivekanand Lochun as Chairperson;
 - (k) the National CSR Committee with Mrs Danielle Tow Yin Wong Ng, CSK, as Chairperson;
 - (l) the Board of the Beach Authority with Mr Roshan Singh Sowamber as Chairperson;
 - (m) the Board of the State Property Development Co. Ltd with Mrs Shakuntala Devi Jugmohun as Chairperson;
 - (n) the Town and Country Planning Board with Mr S. K. Pather, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Housing and Lands, as Chairperson;
 - (o) the Lottery Committee with Ms How Cheey Lan How Fok Cheung, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, as Chairperson; and

- (p) the Board of the Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association with Mr Premode Neerunjun, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as Chairperson.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of –

- (a) Mrs Shamila Romila Sonah-Ori as Commissioner for the Protection of Borrowers; and
- (b) Mr Ashvin Jain Gokhool as Chairperson of the National Transport Corporation.
