

**CABINET DECISIONS – 16 OCTOBER 2015**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives commissioning a study for the development of a 10-year Master Plan for the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector. The main objectives of the Master Plan would be to address the challenges faced by SMEs, and create a conducive environment that would unleash their full potential in various sectors so that they contribute significantly to employment and wealth creation, export, the democratization of the economy, and poverty alleviation.

\*\*\*

2. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations of the National Remuneration Board in respect of the employees of the Bank Fishing Sector, and that the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training would make Regulations to incorporate the recommendations of the Board. The National Remuneration Board has, among others, recommended –

- (a) a wage increase of 40% to the different categories of workers;
- (b) an increase of the advance on remuneration from Rs2,000 to Rs3,000 and the advance to be paid on five occasions instead of three;
- (c) workers to be provided, free of charge, with adequate breakfast, midday and evening meals, bread and tea, as appropriate, and at least three litres of potable water daily;
- (d) the non-contributory insurance policy for the benefit of a worker to cover death or injury by accident arising out of and in the course of employment to be increased from Rs50,000 to Rs150,000;
- (e) a bank fisherman or a frigo-worker who performs work on a public holiday to be paid an allowance of Rs298 and Rs445, respectively, in addition to his remuneration; and
- (f) the death grant to be increased from Rs2,000 to Rs3,500.

\*\*\*

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Arabic-Speaking Union (Amendment) Bill, the Bhojpuri-Speaking Union (Amendment) Bill, the Chinese-Speaking Union (Amendment) Bill, the Creole-Speaking Union (Amendment) Bill, the Sanskrit-Speaking Union (Amendment) Bill, the English-Speaking Union Bill, the Hindi-Speaking Union Bill, the Marathi-Speaking Union Bill, the Tamil-Speaking Union Bill, the Telugu-Speaking Union Bill and the Urdu-Speaking Union Bill in the National Assembly. The main objectives of the Bills are to harmonise the legislation pertaining to Speaking Unions, amend the composition of the Executive Council of the respective Speaking Unions, and provide for the quorum to be seven, and the Director of Audit to be the auditor.

\*\*\*

4. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from Mauritius, led by Mr S. Seebaluck, GOSK, Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, would participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) – Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN 2015) to be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 19 to 23 October 2015. The ICAN meeting is a yearly event organized by ICAO to bring together Member States to discuss air services agreement with a view to expanding the air services network and enhancing air services to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services around the world. The delegation proposes to hold air services negotiations with Australia, Congo, Finland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with a view to expanding existing traffic rights, as well as creating new traffic rights.

\*\*\*

5. Cabinet has agreed that as from December 2015, a special and temporary permission would be granted to the German authorities to operate 10 weekly frequencies instead of 6 as provided for in the Air Services Agreement, and to allow the designated airlines of Germany to operate leased aircraft on the Germany – Mauritius and vice-versa route. Germany is one of the most promising tourism market for Mauritius and the additional flights would increase the number of visitors.

\*\*\*

6. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the development projects at Riche Terre since the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mauritius and the Mauritius JinFei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Co. Ltd in May 2015. The company has already submitted its Master Plan that would include a Convention Centre, an Educational Complex, an International Financial Centre (including a branch of the Bank of China), and a Business Hotel and would carry out the project under the Smart City Scheme. A new joint venture company – the Riche Terre Smart City Ltd – has also been incorporated to promote development at Riche Terre.

\*\*\*

7. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2014) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the supplementary appropriation, by votes of expenditure, both recurrent and capital, in respect of services of Government for the financial year 2014, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2014) Act 2013.

\*\*\*

8. Cabinet has agreed to the Gambling Regulatory Authority correcting anomalies and injustices in the licensing framework of the Authority, issuing new licences, and establishing a level playing field among operators/licensees, in order to avoid the proliferation of illegal betting.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Gambling Regulatory Authority would, shortly, put into place a framework to promote a responsible gambling code of conduct and practice.

\*\*\*

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Seychelles would sign a new Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2015 to 2018. The Programme would provide, *inter alia*, for:

- (a) exchanges of artists, expertise and knowledge and cultural delegations;
- (b) joint publications in creole, cooperation in the development of cultural tourism and the creative industry; and
- (c) cooperation in the preservation, development and promotion of cultural heritage of Mauritius and Seychelles.

\*\*\*

10. Cabinet has agreed to the National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management of India. The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to set up the general principles of collaboration between the institutions, and create opportunities to develop programmes for cooperation in training, education and other knowledge-based activities.

\*\*\*

11. Cabinet has taken note that a one-day symposium would be held in Mauritius in December 2015 to enable a team of multi-disciplinary research scientists to present the findings of the scientific expedition that would be undertaken by an Indian research vessel along the leg Goa to Port Louis in the context of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition, organized with the support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. The symposium would enable the local scientific community and other stakeholders to improve their understanding of the ocean and the coastal processes in the Indian Ocean waters, and provide a platform for the transfer of knowledge and capacity building in marine sciences and technology. The data collected during the expedition and the findings of the research scientists would contribute to enhance the local database for future planning in the context of the sustainable exploration and exploitation of natural resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone.

\*\*\*

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organize Food Handler's Certificate Courses, outside working hours, for private enterprises against payment of an appropriate fee, and amend the Food Regulations with a view to extending the validity period of the Food Handler's Certificate from one year to two years.

\*\*\*

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Cape Town, South Africa where he attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Forum of the China-Africa Health Development. The theme of the Forum was *“Promoting availability of health care service and improving China-Africa’s cooperation in public health in post-Ebola era.”*. The aim of the Forum was to continue the cooperation so that African Countries may improve their public health systems and enhance their capacity for tackling emerging public health issues, cope with disease prevention, and provide for modern health care infrastructure. During the Forum, the Minister of Health and Quality of Life had meetings with Mr M. Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, on the Methadone Substitution Therapy and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts in Mauritius.

\*\*\*

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the National Remuneration Board with Mr Woopendre Punchcoory Gungah as Chairperson.

\*\*\*\*\*