

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 APRIL 2015

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Road Traffic Act, so as to -

- (a) do away with the penalty points system and replace it by a new sanctioning mechanism for certain specified serious driving offences;
- (b) prescribe a fixed graduated scale of fines to be paid by persons convicted of exceeding speed limits;
- (c) provide for the disqualification of a person who has been convicted of more than 5 specified serious driving offences, and the cancellation of the driving licence of a person who has been disqualified a second time;
- (d) provide, in cases of disqualification or cancellation, for the Court to order road traffic offenders to follow rehabilitation courses; and
- (e) streamline and simplify the speed limits on the various types of roads.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Fact Finding Committee on Residential Care Institutions/Shelters for Children following complaints received regarding the management of the institutions, and reports from the Ombudsperson for Children and the Director of Audit. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are to -

- (a) investigate into the various complaints and representations made in respect of the management of the Residential Care Institutions/Shelters for Children, and services being provided to their residents;
- (b) inquire into and assess the operation of Residential Care Institutions/Shelters for Children under a management services contract or receiving grant from the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare other than capitation grant;
- (c) assess whether Residential Care Institutions/Shelters for Children, receiving a capitation grant per child placed under their care, are meeting the needs of those children;
- (d) make recommendations for addressing shortcomings identified; and
- (e) make recommendations on the reform to be brought to the entire system of accommodation of minors in Residential Institutions/Shelters for Children for their enhanced "*prise en charge*" in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the basic standard of care to such children.

The Fact Finding Committee would be chaired by Mr Henry Denis Vellien, and have Ms Karuna Rajiah and Mr Cliff Grenade as Members.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the current land lease Agreement with the Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Co. Ltd, being terminated and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development signing a new Memorandum of Understanding providing, among others, for the retrieval forthwith of 425 arpents of land at Riche Terre, and the setting up of a Joint Venture company. The company would develop a new Master Plan under the Smart City concept and an appropriate marketing strategy to attract investment from potential foreign and local companies.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the enabling Acts of the Cultural Centre Trusts being amended to review the appointment of Members of the Boards of the respective Trusts for the smooth running of the institutions and to avoid conflicting situations.

Cabinet has also agreed to the Acts of the Speaking Unions being amended to reduce the number of members of the Executive Council to 10, and increase their term of office from two to three years.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the 2015 African/Middle East Annual Training Conference of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy Associates (FBINAA) would be held in Mauritius in July 2015. The theme of the Conference will be "**Cyber Crime, a growing threat to Offshore and Financial Sector**". The FBINAA is an association which groups law enforcement associates who have graduated from the FBI sponsored National Academy of the United States. The Conference would be an opportunity to enhance cooperation among law enforcement organisations and share knowledge, experience and best practices in policing fields.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the former Trou aux Biches Casino would be reopened at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre. Grand Baie, a strategic location for tourist attraction with several hotels, shopping outlets, fashion boutiques, restaurants, buzzing nightlife and other forms of entertainment, offers a unique opportunity to the State Investment Corporation Ltd to diversify its activities.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the consultative meetings that the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare had with public and private sectors, and civil society organisations in the context of the International Women's Day 2015. The objectives of the Meetings were, among others, to -

- (a) highlight progress made in the attainment of women's empowerment and gender equality;
- (b) take stock of constraints and hurdles that undermine the full participation of women in all sectors of development; and
- (c) strategize on remedial actions to address all outstanding forms of discrimination against women.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius acceding to the Sixth African Regional Cooperative Agreement (AFRA) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period 2015 to 2020. The AFRA regional programmes cover six thematic areas, namely, Human Health, Food and Agriculture, Water Resources, Sustainable Energy Development, Industrial Applications, and Nuclear and Waste Safety and Security. The AFRA is an intergovernmental agreement established in 1990 by the IAEA to further strengthen and enlarge the contribution of nuclear science and technology to the socio-economic development of the African continent. It seeks to maximise the use of available infrastructure and expertise in Africa. It also assists Member States to move towards regional self-sufficiency using peaceful applications of nuclear techniques.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 18th General Session of the African-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) Conference held in Mauritius from 06 to 09 April 2015. Mauritius was elected President of AARDO for the next triennium 2015-2017. The Conference discussed administrative issues, and explored opportunities for coordination of efforts for promoting welfare, and eradicating hunger, illiteracy, diseases and poverty among rural people.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Ethiopia where he participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Summit of the COMESA Authority of Heads of State and Government. The theme of the Summit was "**Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation**". Discussions centred, among others, on -

- (a) the review of trade among the three Regional Economic Communities, i.e., COMESA, SADC and EAC;
- (b) facilitating SMEs in the region;
- (c) the COMESA Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
- (d) the Eastern and Southern Africa-Economic Partnership Agreement; and
- (e) the Regional Integration Support Mechanism.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of Directors of the Civil Service College, Mauritius with Mr Paul Roland Dubois as Chairperson. Cabinet has also taken note that the Board of Directors of the College would, among others, comprise three representatives of Federations of Trade Unions of the Civil Service.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of -

- (a) the Board of the Road Development Authority with Mr Claude Emmanuel Wong So as Chairperson;
- (b) the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Board with Mr Nazir Mohamad Ameen Junggee as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of the Mauritius Post Ltd.

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