

CABINET DECISIONS – 24 JULY 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note that a National Road Safety Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister, is being set up to, *inter alia*, define national objectives and goals, and determine policies and priorities regarding road safety projects and programmes.

Cabinet has also taken note of the National Road Safety Strategy 2015-2025 that introduces new targets and actions to prevent road injuries and save life on roads. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport has set four national priorities for road safety management as follows -

- (a) improving safety of vehicles and road infrastructure;
- (b) sensitization, prevention and training;
- (c) protection of the most vulnerable categories of road users; and
- (d) fight against serious road traffic violations.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the High Level Ministerial Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to address the mismatch between local employability and imported labour. The Committee has examined, among others, the unemployment situation, the increasing number of qualified unemployed, and the lack of manpower planning, and recommended, among others, that -

- (a) specific sectors, such as ICT, Financial and Insurance, and Manufacturing, should be encouraged to attract foreign skills, know-how and talents in order to give a boost to the sectors;
- (b) an appropriate policy should be devised to encourage the employment of expatriates in scarcity and priority fields whilst leaving areas of low skills, or where sufficient trained labour is available, to citizens of Mauritius;
- (c) scarcity areas and parameters for both work permits and occupation permits should be reviewed, in particular in the Tourism and Construction Sectors;
- (d) a data bank of masons and other relevant jobs in the Construction Sector should be set up whereby the unemployed can register with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, and be eligible for appropriate training;
- (e) the criteria for the issue of Occupation Permit should be revised and the minimum salary reviewed;

- (f) fairness and transparency should be instilled in the process adopted for the employment of foreign workers in order to create opportunities for local job seekers; and
- (g) new training institutions for capacity building in the Cruise and Nursing Sectors should be opened, and the private sector encouraged to provide relevant training.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the new criteria for the payment of grant to low income families for the purchase of a water tank. A grant of Rs5,000 would be provided to families with an income ceiling of Rs15,000 monthly, and priority of consideration would be given to households from regions which are most affected by drastic water cuts. A sensitization campaign is being carried out on the scheme, and a special desk in the Cash Offices of the Central Water Authority will be opened to assist eligible households in the filling of application forms.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a Working Group to spearhead and oversee the implementation of the Unemployed Graduates Training Programme as announced in 2015-2016 Budget Speech. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group, *inter alia*, include the provision of inputs on skills needs of industries, processing of applications, approving requests/proposals from Tertiary Education Institutions and MQA-registered institutions, ensuring quality assurance and facilitating employment/placements. The main objective of the training scheme is to enhance the employability prospects of unemployed graduates by endowing them with skills as per the requirements of the job market.

5. Cabinet has taken note of measures being taken to revamp the operations of the Youth Service of the Ministry of Youth and Sports as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019, with a view to providing greater access to quality and user-friendly services, and empowering the youth to better participate in the socioeconomic development of the country. The revamping exercise has been branded “**Smart Youth 2020: Revamping the Youth Service**”.

6. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has been formally accepted as Member of the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) negotiations. The Trade in Services Agreement would play a meaningful role by opening up export opportunities for service providers, and creating a conducive environment to attract foreign investment.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the organization of the following activities in the context of the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr at national level, -

- (a) performances by a Sufiana Qawwali Troupe of six artists from India;
- (b) an Eid Fair at the Islamic Cultural Centre, Port Louis that would include, among others, calligraphy demonstration, mehendi display and application, sale of Muslim food and delicacies, Children's corner, and exhibition on 'Muslims in Mauritius'; and
- (c) lunch for inmates of orphanages, day care centres and centres for persons with disabilities.

8. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would participate in 12 sports disciplines, namely athletics, badminton, beach volley, boxing, cycling, fencing, handi-sports (visual and physical), judo, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling, at the 11th African Games to be held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in September 2015.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a Cooperative Law Advisory Committee under the Cooperatives Act 2005, that would make recommendations to the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives on reforms of cooperative legislation and regulations, codes, guidelines and circulars as may be necessary, in line with Government policy to boost the Cooperatives Sector.

10. Cabinet has taken note that a Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, has been set up to look into arrangements to be made so that Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated in the best conditions. The Committee would comprise, among others, the Minister of Local Government, the Minister of Arts and Culture, and the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Postal Authority has approved the revision of postal tariffs with effect from 1 August 2015 taking into consideration increase in administrative costs, investment in the modernization process and new technologies, and the promotion of new products, such as e-commerce and online shopping, in line with the Strategic Plan of the Mauritius Post Ltd and Roadmap 2013-2016.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport to Reunion Island at an invitation of the President of “*Région Réunion*”, Mr Didier Robert. The main objective of the mission was to share experience, know-how and expertise of Reunion Island in such fields as road infrastructure, public transport system, ecological bus network, and Road Safety Strategy and Enforcement.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of Governors of the Université des Mascareignes with Prof Pierre Guillon, *Docteur es Sciences*, as Chairperson appointed by the *Université de Limoges* in accordance with the *Accord Cadre de Collaboration et de Partenariat* with the Université des Mascareignes; and
- (b) the Board of the Mauritius Educational Development Company Ltd with Dr Mrs Usha Jeetah as Chairperson.
