

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 JULY 2015

1. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of the Mauritian Diaspora Scheme, designed to attract members of the Mauritian diaspora back to Mauritius and encourage their participation in the economic development of the country as announced in 2015-2016 Budget Speech. Any member of the Mauritian diaspora, that is, a citizen of Mauritius holding a valid Mauritian passport, or a child or grand child of that citizen, who has been living and working outside Mauritius, has the necessary skills, talent and experience, and is willing to return and serve Mauritius, would be eligible to apply for registration under the Scheme.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a Hotel Classification System in a bid to consolidate the tourism industry with well-defined criteria for operational standards as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019. The Classification System has adopted a customer-centric approach purporting to reinforce the image of Mauritius as a reliable and upmarket destination. The main objectives of the System are to –

- (a) facilitate the choice of potential guests;
- (b) develop a service of high repute;
- (c) ensure a sense of place experience and create an environment for total visitors' satisfaction; and
- (d) enhance customer satisfaction by providing adequate and accurate product information at the time of booking by the customer.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministerial Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications, would undertake the second phase of the review of the Local Government Act 2011. The review will focus, *inter alia*, on how democracy at local level could be further consolidated, community participation encouraged, and the local authorities operate in a more effective and efficient manner for improved delivery of services.

4. Cabinet has agreed to new operators being authorized to operate helicopter services in Mauritius with a view to developing the upmarket tourist segment for activities, such as airport transfers, over the water travel, medical evacuation, sightseeing tours, golf courses drop off and pick up, photo shooting, filming, emergency and rescue services.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the grading of the pay and salary structures, and the conditions of service of the Gambling Regulatory Authority being, henceforth, governed by the Pay Research Bureau on grounds of consistency, equity, fairness and uniformity.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the project 'Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa', also known as the Vet-Gov project, would be held in Mauritius from 22 to 24 July 2015. The main objective of the project is to strengthen institutions dealing with livestock issues at national level. Some 40 participants from African countries and international organizations, such as FAO, COMESA, SADC and the *Organisation Internationale des Epizooties*, would attend the Meeting.

7. Cabinet has taken note that, under the Decent Work Country Programme, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare would organize a "High Standard Capacity Building Programme for Members of Gender Cells" from 21 to 23 July 2015. The topics that would be discussed are gender as a human rights and development issue, gender dynamics, and gender mainstreaming.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the first meeting of the Mauritius-India Joint Working Group in the field of Ocean Economy would be held in September 2015 in Mauritius. The objectives of the Working Group are, among others, to –

- (a) identify priorities relating to the different areas of cooperation;
- (b) develop joint project proposals, examine concrete activities and programmes of cooperation, and coordinate with the participating organizations responsible for the implementation of the programmes; and
- (c) decide on the financing arrangements for the various activities and programmes.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the Health Statistics Report 2014 of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, that provides information, *inter alia*, on Population and Vital Statistics, Infrastructure and Personnel, Services, Morbidity and Mortality, Non-communicable and Communicable Diseases, and the Health System. In the light of the analysis of the data, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life is adjusting strategies to further improve the delivery of health services, namely -

- (a) strengthening of primary health care services;

- (b) optimising the hospital services;
- (c) improving the maternal and child health services, including the neonatal intensive care;
- (d) enhancing the fight against non-communicable diseases, with emphasis on prevention;
- (e) sustaining the control of communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS, with focus on health education; and
- (f) upgrading health infrastructure, including high tech medicine and equipment.

10. Cabinet has taken note of a Protocol, prepared by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, setting out comprehensive guidelines/criteria for the provision of bus stops and bus shelters on motorways, main roads and bus corridors in the wake of the proposed modernisation of the bus transport system. The aim of introducing the Protocol is to help interested sponsors/promoters to construct new bus shelters, renovate and maintain existing ones, and demolish and replace bus shelters which are in a deplorable state, whilst adhering to the existing legal framework.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications led a public-private sector delegation to China in connection with the inaugural flight of Air Mauritius to Chengdu, China. After Shanghai and Beijing, Air Mauritius has opened a third point in China with a view to further consolidating its presence in the Chinese market. Tourist arrivals from China have shown a steady growth since the introduction of direct weekly flights to Shanghai and Beijing. During the period January to June 2015, an increase of 31.8% in tourist arrivals, with 42,108 tourists, had been recorded. The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications had meetings with the Governor of the Sichuan Province, and the Mayor, and the First Vice-Mayor of Chengdu on avenues of collaboration between the Sichuan Province and Mauritius. He also held a press conference to showcase the diversity of our product portfolio and niche segments, such as Golf and outdoor activities.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport participated in the African Capital Cities Forum, on an invitation of the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Pretoria. The main objectives of the Forum were to create a platform for collaboration among African Capital Cities, and develop and implement a coordinated sustainability approach for the respective cities. Discussions centred, among others, on the African Capital Cities, Transport and Mobility, and Sustainable infrastructure. The Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport also had discussions with the South African Minister of Transport, and the Mayoress of the City of Cape Town on the development of road infrastructure, improvement of public transport and road safety.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Gilwyn Brunel L'Assiette as Chairperson of the Board of the Tourism Employees Welfare Fund. Mr L'Assiette is holder of a BSc Honours in Tourism and Hospitality Management from the University of Technology, Mauritius, and reckons over 7 years experience in the hospitality industry.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health with the Director, Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of the Open University of Mauritius with Mr Rajeswara Duva Pentiah, former Permanent Secretary, as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Boiler and Machinery Inspectors Board with Mr Jacques Alain Lassemillante as Chairperson.
