

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the International Creole Festival, HM Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene or monarch of the Kingdom of Ashanti, Ghana, would visit Mauritius from 23 to 26 November 2016. He would be accompanied by a high-level delegation of businessmen to explore business possibilities with Mauritian counterparts with a view to concluding mutually beneficial business agreements.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the National Skills Development Programme, as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017, to better match skills, and create more job opportunities. Some 4,000 youths would be enlisted for training in technical skills that are highly in demand, namely, ICT, Tourism and Hospitality, Nursing and Paramedics, and Construction. The Programme would target unemployed persons in the age group of 16 years to 30 years and consideration could be given to unemployed persons of up to the age of 35. The training courses would be of 3 to 12 months duration and incorporate a placement component during or at the end of the training period. The trainees would be paid a monthly stipend of Rs5,000, plus travelling expenses.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Master Plan for Energy Efficiency/Demand Side Management and Action Plan for period 2016 to 2030. The main objectives of the Plan are to –

- (a) attain an overall 10% reduction of energy consumption by 2030;
- (b) generate sustainable energy savings by increasing energy efficiency investments in all sectors through the development of an enabling environment, and the provision of targeted financial incentives and technical assistance to project developers;
- (c) develop and contribute to the growth of the market for energy efficiency services and technologies; and
- (d) assist the private sector to acquire information, capacities, experience and implement more energy efficiency projects.

The Master Plan would be made public.

4. Cabinet has reviewed the status of the prevalence of the Foot and Mouth Disease, and the presence of *Salmonella Typhimurium* in chickens. Cabinet has taken note that no new case of Foot and Mouth Disease has been recorded during the past fortnight. The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is continuing with the vaccination of cattle. As regards the presence of *Salmonella Typhimurium* in chickens, the situation is under control and no infected chicken is on sale on the market.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, out of 138 countries, Mauritius ranks 45th in 2016, as compared to 46th in 2015 on the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum. Mauritius ranks first in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Africa and Rwanda. Mauritius is one of the 19 countries that has made the transition from an efficiency-driven economy to an innovation-driven economy.

6. Cabinet has agreed to “Leisure and Tourism” being added to the list of themes in the Consumer Protection (Control of Fairs) Regulations 2016 to enable the organisation of trade fairs to promote the tourism and hospitality industry, i.e., overseas travel, cruises, stay in hotels locally and overseas, photography, insurance, leisure parks and activities, car rental and museums.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of the Republic of Italy for cooperation to promote and develop scientific, technical and economic relations in the fields of renewable energy, construction energy efficiency and climate change on the aspects of mitigation and adaptation.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would launch a Price Affixing Campaign. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and the National Price Consultative Council have mounted the campaign to protect the interest of consumers and promote sound and healthy trade practices, following representations received regarding unscrupulous traders who are not affixing prices of commodities as required by the Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act. In that context, posters would be affixed around the country with the message ‘***Fer atansion! Kot péna pri, pa asté***’.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Second African Regional Young Academies Conference would be held in Mauritius in October 2016. The main objectives of the Conference are to engage and empower young researchers from across Africa to address the challenges that impede scientific development towards a sustainable future for the region. The theme of the Conference would be “**Empowering the Next Generation of Scientists in Africa**”. Some 54 participants from 24 countries would participate in the Conference.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark the World Mental Health Day, commemorated on 10 October. The theme chosen by the World Health Organization is “**Dignity in Mental Health: Psychological and Mental Health First Aid for All**”. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would –

- (a) hold an official function, followed by a cultural programme, at the Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre;

- (b) organise an exhibition to display the creativity of the patients of the Centre;
- (c) mount a sensitisation campaign on the issue of psychological and social first aid, and support to mental patients; and
- (d) organise a Solidarity Walk on 15 October 2016.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Mauritius Post Ltd to mark the World Post Day 2016, commemorated on 09 October, namely –

- (a) a Drug Awareness Campaign on the theme '**Mauritius Post Combatting Drugs**', comprising a march, and a wall painting competition;
- (b) an Open Day on 10 October 2016 in some Post Offices to sensitise students on the work and products/services offered by Post Offices;
- (c) free entrance at the Postal Museum on 08 and 09 October 2016;
- (d) the issue of Commemorative Stamps and First Day Cover on Fresh Water Flora; and
- (e) promotion of the Junior Philatelic Club.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to the People's Republic of China where he participated in the 6th "Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development" Conference. The Conference, among others, reviewed the situation of and discussed challenges, opportunities and innovations for the Africa-China Productive Capacity Cooperation.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment had discussions with the State Minister of the People's Republic of China, who had expressed the wish to hold the next Africa-China Conference in Mauritius in 2017.
