

CABINET DECISIONS – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Facilitation of Movement of Business Persons and Professionals between Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration (APEI) Countries, namely Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles and Zambia. The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are, among others, to -

- (a) provide, subject to relevant national legislation, Business Permits or short-term flexible Employment Permits with multiple entries to enable Business Persons or Professionals to undertake a wide range of business activities;
- (b) facilitate infusion of high-level skills into priority sectors in the economy of Party States through the issuance of long-term Employment/Business Residence Permits;
- (c) establish streamlined, harmonized and transparent procedures for the granting of permits to the specific categories of Business Persons and Professionals; and
- (d) facilitate the development of talents and skills within priority sectors.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade will sign the Memorandum of Understanding this afternoon.

In connection with the Africa Strategy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade would proceed on a mission to Madagascar from 25 to 29 September 2016 to discuss issues regarding enhanced cooperation with African countries.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the following new services in the Women Centres, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 -

- (a) development of technical skills for minor electrical repairs;
- (b) getting ready to join the world of work;
- (c) self-defence and other safety precautions;
- (d) leadership programme, including interactive sessions by role models from various sectors;
- (e) support to overcome distress and anxiety: group therapy and self-help support;
- (f) mobile legal counselling advice, including legal advice on issues not addressed in the Family Support Bureaux of the Ministry;
- (g) Goal Programme: empowering young girls;

- (h) promoting wellness, well-being and healthy lifestyles; and
- (i) “*Coffee, Cake, Connect*”: for women to be regrouped, strengthened and empowered.

The Women Centres would be rebranded into Women Empowerment Centres, and innovative and empowering courses and activities introduced in line with the policy of Government to modernise their services.

3. Cabinet has agreed to support the candidature of the Hon Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, SC, Minister of Health and Quality of Life, as Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

4 Taking into consideration the prevalence of the Foot and Mouth Disease, Cabinet has agreed to freeze the importation of live cattle until further notice.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the signing of a Host Country Agreement between Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub. The Hub is a programme which will work as a network of practices linked to various robust networks sharing the same purpose of enhancing access to climate funding. The Hub will also act as a coordination mechanism to receive and manage requests for technical assistance and capacity building in the area of climate finance on behalf of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. The Commonwealth Secretariat and Mauritius will be permanent members of the Steering Committee which will set priorities for the Hub. It will have nodes in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regions.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Sittings of the Court of Appeal of Bologna in the case pertaining to the Extradition Proceedings instituted against Mrs Nandanee Soornack, and that the judgment would be studied further with a view to lodging an appeal, or other suitable course of action.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the African Leadership Group would host the Annual Gathering of the African Leadership Network (ALN) in Mauritius in November 2016. The ALN seeks to build valuable, lasting relationships with influential African Leaders, from the public and private sectors, as well as entrepreneurs, through a programme of thematic sessions and workshops. Around 250-300 Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors of leading African companies would attend the Gathering. The conference would also host the "African Awards for Entrepreneurship" whereby 12 most successful entrepreneurs of Africa would be recognised for their achievements as influential leaders across the Continent. The Group has the intention of making Mauritius the long term "home" of the event and, henceforth, host all future ALN events in Mauritius.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make the Food (Amendment) Regulations under the Food Act with a view to aligning the definition of soft drinks with that of the Excise Act, as amended by the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2016, and incorporating non-alcoholic cider and non-alcoholic beer into the definition of soft drinks.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the services of Mr Jean Daniel Raymond, Road Safety Coordinator in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, have been retained for a further period of one year. Mr Raymond has been actively involved in various initiatives aimed at enhancing road safety, including -

- (a) the drafting of the National Road Safety Strategy;
- (b) the setting up of the National Road Safety Commission;
- (c) the review of the licensing scheme for motorcyclists and autocyclists; and
- (d) the privatization of the Fitness Centres, and the development of criteria for the examination of motor vehicles.

Mr Raymond is currently working on various projects, including -

- (a) the review of the road crash data collection and analysis system; and
- (b) the development of a Road Accident Prevention Plan and a communication strategy on road safety.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the Centenary of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2019, the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training would organise a workshop on 26 and 27 September 2016, on the theme "*Future of Work Initiative*". The Initiative is driven by the need for the ILO and its Member States to deepen their understanding of the change taking place in the world of work in order to effectively meet policy challenges and advance their shared commitment to social justice and decent work for all.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to France where he participated in the *Salon Bijorhca Paris*. The *Salon*, an international jewellery fair, provided a unique opportunity to Mauritian SME jewellers to meet with major buyers around Europe. Contacts have been established with some 162 buyers, and immediate orders to the tune of Euros 75,000 have been received, and orders of around Euros 350,000 are expected.

In the margins of the *Salon*, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection had meetings, among others, with -

- (a) Dr Emmanuel Gilet, Chairperson “Luxury Made in France”, on a proposed project aimed at transforming Mauritius into an effective destination for the development of a Luxury Cluster in the Indian Ocean Commission, and the Sub-Saharan Africa region;
- (b) Mr Didier Roux, President of *France Éclat*, a Trade Development Organisation for the Jewellery Sector in France, on training and capacity building to better equip Mauritian SMEs to tackle the export market;
- (c) Mr Anthony Jeanbourquin, Director of the Besançon Chamber of Commerce, on capacity building for the further development of the high end Light Engineering Sector; and
- (d) Mr Jacques Proquez, Consultant at the French Institute of Textiles and Clothing on the restructuring and renovation of the Textile and Apparel Sector of Mauritius.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Chagossian Welfare Fund with Mr Louis Olivier Bancoult, OSK, as Chairperson.
