

**LIST OF CABINET DECISIONS – 18 MARCH 2016**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Build Operate Transfer Projects Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill provides for a legal framework for the execution of public sector projects to be undertaken under Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreements, i.e., agreements granting rights to a private party to, among others, build, set up, own, operate, rent, lease and transfer the undertaking to the contracting authority after a defined period of time. The Bill also provides for the setting up of a BOT Projects Unit within the Procurement Policy Office, and for BOT agreements to be laid before the National Assembly.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill provides for a legal framework to better manage disasters with a view to protecting life and property in a more effective manner. The main object of the Bill is to provide for -

- (a) the prevention and reduction of the risk of disasters;
- (b) mitigation of the adverse impacts of disasters;
- (c) disaster preparedness;
- (d) effective response to disasters; and
- (e) the management of post-disaster activities, including recovery and rehabilitation.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at La Source, Quatre Bornes, would be named after late Mr Daniel Imbert, former national football player. Mr Imbert is the only national football player who scored two goals at the final round of the African Nations Cup in 1974. The Complex comprises a jogging track, two volleyball *cum* basketball pitches, one petanque court, one multi-purpose shed, and one open air gym, as well as other amenities like cloakrooms, toilets.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to discussions being initiated with the Government of the People's Republic of China for the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement. The main objective of the Agreement will be to eliminate barriers to trade through the reduction or elimination of tariffs on bilateral trade. In 2014, Mauritius exported goods worth Rs212m to the People's Republic of China and the main exports were frozen fish, cane sugar, wrist watches, garments and rum.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the E-Learning System (ELS), a web-based programme used to facilitate learning and training in the Civil Service. The System will provide public officers access to short and practical on-line courses to complement traditional face-to-face courses. The setting up of the ELS will constitute a technological breakthrough with a rapid and significant impact on both personal and organisational development in the Civil Service, and contribute to promote high-quality service delivery.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to making it mandatory for Ministries/Departments to have their own Customer Charter. The Charter puts an obligation on public officers to adhere to established organizational norms and standards for the provision of timely service, and calls upon customers to be conscious of their responsibilities to comply with specific conditions.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Arts and Culture would submit the Nomination Dossier of Segga Tambour of Rodrigues to UNESCO for possible inscription in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The listing of Segga Tambour would provide an opportunity to preserve and further promote the segga. The Traditional Mauritian Segga was inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2014, and the nomination dossier of Bhojpuri folk songs has already been assessed by UNESCO Secretariat.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the activities that would be organized in the context of World Water Day 2016, commemorated on 22 March, include –

- (a) the holding of an exhibition at La Marie Water Treatment Plant;
- (b) a fresco competition on the boundary wall of Cascavelle Reservoir, open to upper secondary school students;
- (c) open days at La Marie and Pailles Water Treatment Plants, Midlands Dam and Midlands Hydro-Power Plant; and
- (d) tree planting on the banks of Rivière Rempart at Palma/Beau Songes.

The theme retained for this year is **Water and Jobs**.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the activities that would be organised to mark the International Day of Forests 2016, commemorated on 21 March, include –

- (a) planting of fruit, native and endemic trees at Pointe du Diable;
- (b) launching of the Strategic Plan 2016-2019 for the Forestry Sector;
- (c) sale of plants at reduced prices;
- (d) organisation of a smartphone photo contest on Forests of Mauritius; and
- (e) sensitization campaigns on the importance of trees.

The theme retained for this year is **Forest and Water**.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Ethiopia where he participated in the Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa. The Conference focussed on strategies to develop effective plans for improving immunization coverage and strengthen collaboration between sectors, and explored ways and means by which communities can be involved to drive demand for immunization, and increase life-saving vaccine coverage. A Declaration on “Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa” was adopted during the Conference.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Hon M.J.N.E.G. Sinatambou, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, to Zambia where he participated in the 8th US-COMESA Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council Meeting. The main objectives of the Meeting were to review strategic objectives, and identify additional priorities and activities to enhance the US-COMESA trade and investment relationship.

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12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 31st Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) held in Reunion Island on 26 February 2016. The issues discussed were, among others, –

- (a) the revival of the *Association des parlementaires de la Commission de l’océan Indien*;
- (b) Terrorism;
- (c) the organization of the First IOC Blue/Ocean Economy Conference;
- (d) the IOC Regional Fishing and Aquaculture Strategy; and
- (e) Climate Change.

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