

CABINET DECISIONS – 05 AUGUST 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note of the policy document on the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education. The document includes an implementation plan covering the following areas: Curriculum Development for Basic Education and Upper Secondary Education, Professional Development, Assessment, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, System Governance and Accountability, and Communications. Amendments would be brought to the Education Act to provide for the implementation of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education to be effective as from 1 January 2017.

Cabinet has also taken note that the first assessment leading to the award of the Primary School Achievement Certificate would be held in 2017.

2. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius is ranked 58th worldwide and first in Africa, followed by Tunisia (72nd worldwide), with an e-Government Development Index of 0.6231 in the UN e-Government Survey 2016. Mauritius ranked 76th and Tunisia 75th in the UN e-Government Survey 2014.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Electricity Act 1939 being amended to facilitate the issue of permits to households and institutions that wish to install electricity generation plants of less than 2MW, in line with the objective of Government to bring about a more conducive environment for the development of renewable energy. The new procedures would significantly reduce the time taken to process and approve applications for the installation of solar PV plants by households and small enterprises.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the National Youth Policy 2016 that aims at creating a dynamic and smart Youth Sector, and lays emphasis on opportunities to empower youth to develop their resilience and sense of belonging to society.

Cabinet has agreed to the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Policy. The Action Plan has been developed around five objectives, namely Employment and Employability, Entrepreneurship, Recreational Activities, Wellness and Attitude, and Informal Education. A study for the elaboration of a Manual of Standard Operating Procedures for the Youth Sector is currently underway.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the First Report of the National Drug Observatory that was set up in November 2015. The main objectives of the Observatory are to monitor and assess the dangerous drug situation in the country, and devise appropriate strategies to deal effectively with the problem of drug abuse in a more proactive, efficient and timely manner. The Report will be made public.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the review of the current ratio criteria of foreign worker to local worker in the Woodwork and Furniture Manufacturing Sector and the Welding and Metal Manufacturing Sector from 1:3 to 1:2 in view of the acute shortage of labour that is impacting negatively on the performance of the Sectors.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Private Secondary Schools Authority (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The objects of the Bill are to amend the Private Secondary Schools Authority Act to -

- (a) consolidate the provisions of the existing Act, and review the functions and powers of the Private Secondary Schools Authority;
- (b) provide for a consultative mechanism for greater involvement of stakeholders;
- (c) restore the pedagogical inspection and quality assurance functions of the Authority; and
- (d) change the appellation of the Authority into Private Secondary Education Authority in order to better reflect its new role and functions.

8. Cabinet has taken note that Dr Satyabhooshan Gupt Domah, former Puisne Judge, has been nominated as candidate for election as Member of the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the various projects currently being implemented by the National Development Unit around the country and the projects that would be carried out during Financial Year 2016-2017.

Cabinet has taken note that, following the application of the Framework Agreements for the implementation of Drains, Roads and Amenities Projects, a number of projects comprising landscaping works, construction of drains and children's playgrounds, upgrading of roads and sports facilities, and fixing of lighting equipment, has been completed within schedule during the Financial Year 2015-2016.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the football ground at Tranquebar, Port Louis, would be named after late Mr Serge Bardottier. Mr Bardottier, an inhabitant of Tranquebar, was a player of the former Fire Brigade football team.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease in Rodrigues. The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has taken a series of measures to control the spread of the disease, including a temporary ban on the movement of animals from Rodrigues.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the findings of the Rodrigues Non-Communicable Diseases Survey 2016. The main objectives of the Survey were to study the trends and determine the prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, obesity and their associated risk factors in the Rodriguan population. It has been noted that the prevalence of diabetes has been stable, and of hypertension has reduced from 40.2% in 2009 to 30.5% in 2016.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Nairobi, Kenya where he attended the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIV), and the meetings of the Group of 77 and China. The Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China adopted a Declaration wherein they reaffirmed that "*there is need to find a peaceful solution to the decolonisation and sovereignty issues affecting developing countries, recognising that failure to resolve these issues will seriously damage and undermine the development and economic capacities and prospects of these countries*" and "*took note of the ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal in the case brought by Mauritius against the United Kingdom under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that the "marine protected area" was unlawfully established under international law*".

The UNCTAD XIV Ministerial Conference adopted the Nairobi Maafikiano Declaration that, among others, calls on UNCTAD to work with SIDS to address the persistent trade, investment and development challenges that they encounter, including through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and for the advancement of SDG 14 through the design and implementation of strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of Oceans and their resources so as to promote sustainable trade in ocean-based sectors.

In the margins of the Meetings, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had bilateral meetings, among others, with -

- (a) Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD on the possibility of UNCTAD carrying out a Services Policy Review for Mauritius;
- (b) Ms A. Gonzalez, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, who would visit Mauritius in September 2016 in the context of the launching of the National Export Strategy which has been worked out in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection; and
- (c) Hon Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade and Investment of Lesotho on an early conclusion of the outstanding Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General to Botswana where he participated in the SADC Meeting of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General. The Meeting considered and recommended the submission of the following instruments for approval and signature at the Summit -

- (a) Agreement Amending the Protocol Against Corruption and the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

- (b) Agreement amending Annex 1 to the Protocol on Finance and Investment;
- (c) Agreement amending Article 3(1)(i) of Trade Protocol; and
- (d) Annex on Cooperation in Financial Matters (Annex 13 to the Protocol on Finance and Investment).

15. Cabinet has taken note that the Valuation Tribunal has been reconstituted with Mr A. Neerooa, Magistrate of the Intermediate Court as Chairperson. Mr Shafik Hoossen Abdulla Syed Cassim Jeehan and Mr Mahendraduth Seechurn would be Members of the Tribunal.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Arbitration Committee with Me Jacques Laval Panglose as Chairperson, and Me S. K. Auchoybur, Me Z. Nazurally and Me V. S. Rampootab as Vice-Chairpersons.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Bus Industry Employees Welfare Fund with Mr Vivekanand Narotamsing Auchoybur as Chairperson. Mr Auchoybur holds a Bachelor in Commerce and has been a member of the Board of the Rose Belle Sugar Estate.
