

CABINET DECISIONS – 12 AUGUST 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the prevalence of the Foot and Mouth Disease in Mauritius. As at date, a total of 343 animals has been culled. Some suspected cases have recently been detected at Cité la Cure and a survey of farms in Vallée des Prêtres is being carried out.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security has taken a series of measures to prevent the spread of the Foot and Mouth Disease, mainly -

- (a) a vaccination campaign that will start on 13 August 2016;
- (b) the suspension of the zero budget farming activities involving the use of cow dung and urine as fertilizer for a period of six months;
- (c) request for assistance to the FAO to combat the disease, particularly in Rodrigues; and
- (d) culling of infected animals.

Cabinet has agreed to the payment of a compensation to breeders and importers whose animals have been culled.

Cabinet has further taken note that, in the context of the forthcoming Eid-UI-Adha festival, arrangements have been made for all animals leaving Socovia Farm to be examined by a Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

2. Cabinet has taken note that, in view of the prevalence of the Foot and Mouth Disease, the shooting season of deer is being suspended for an initial period of three weeks as from 13 August 2016 to minimize risks of transmission of the Disease to the deer population. The shooting season would be extended as required.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Road Traffic Act to provide for the authorised examiners to issue certificates of fitness in respect of motor vehicles and trailers that they have examined.

Cabinet has taken note that, following the measure enunciated in the Budget Speech 2016-2017, vehicle owners would continue to pay the prevailing fee for fitness tests.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Allied Health Professions Council Bill would be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Allied Health Professions Council of Mauritius that would, among others, -

- (a) regulate and control the prescribed allied health professions;
- (b) register allied health professionals;
- (c) register non-citizens as visiting allied health professionals; and
- (d) exercise and maintain discipline in the allied health professions.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the setting up of Business Development and Facilitation Centres around the country. The Centres would provide an array of facilities and services to the micro, small and medium enterprises. The Centres would not only focus on the setting up of a support infrastructure of business services aimed at boosting the initiative of young entrepreneurs, but also provide with the expertise, networks and tools needed to make their ventures successful. The first Business Development and Facilitation Centre that has been set up in Mahebourg, has received some 51 clients, including 20 start-ups and carried out 87 interventions relating, among others, to mentoring, coaching and capacity building. Three additional Centres would be fully operational by the end of 2016.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the registration of vulnerable families under the Social Register of Mauritius will be carried out in all Citizens Advice Bureaux from 16 August to 10 September 2016.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the holding of the first meeting of the International Scientific Committee for the Indenture Labour Route Project in Mauritius in November 2016. The International Scientific Committee, that would comprise countries involved in the Indenture Labour System, namely, India, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, Reunion Island, Surinam, Fiji, Malaysia, UK and France, would ratify the Terms of Reference of the Committee and discuss the course of action for the elaboration of an international database on the Indenture Labour System.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to Reunion Island where he chaired the Inter-Ministerial Meeting of *Les Iles Vanilles*.

Cabinet has also taken note that the tenure as President of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting of *Les Iles Vanilles* by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications has been extended until further notice.

The Inter-Ministerial Meeting, *inter alia*, decided to -

- (a) have one *Iles Vanilles* area, incorporating individual sections for each member country, in trade fairs;
- (b) Member States introducing a star rating system for hotels;

- (c) build a solid platform to attract cruise ships to the region; and
- (d) the development of a common marketing strategy highlighting the differentiating positive attractions of the region.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications had working sessions, *inter alia*, with -

- (a) major local tour operators to review the current market conditions and define the action plan for 2017 and beyond; and
- (b) Dr Michel Fontaine, Senator and Mayor of Saint Pierre and President of the *Communauté Intercommunales des Villes Solidaires du Sud*, and the Managing Director of Pierrefonds Airport on cooperation between Pierrefonds Airport and the SSR International Airport, and the implementation of the twinning agreement between Curepipe and Saint Pierre.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 107,912 tourists visited Mauritius in July 2016 as compared to 95,695 in July 2015, i.e., an increase of 12.8%. For the period of January to July 2016, 694,376 tourists visited Mauritius as compared to 629,877 during the same period in 2015, i.e., an increase of 10.2%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from Germany (+62.9%), UK (+18.4%), Italy (+8.6%), France (+2.6%), India (+43.3%), Reunion Island (+2.8%) and South Africa (+1.4%).

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the bilateral meeting held between the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation and the Japanese delegation headed by Hon Yasutoshi Nishimura, Member of the Japanese House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Cabinet. Discussions focused on areas of cooperation in the fields of Technology, Communication and Innovation. Japan is interested in outsourcing some of its activities related to software development, and would consider collaborating in emerging sectors, such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. Japan has also identified Mauritius as a potential partner.
