

CABINET DECISIONS – 15 JULY 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Public Officers' Protection (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to increase the penalties provided for in relation to molesting public officers with a view to deterring persons who are minded to assault public officers.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the closed list of recognised medical institutions, including professional bodies, from 30 countries established by the Medical Council of Mauritius for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The main objective of the list is to standardise the quality of medical education that is acquired by Mauritian students with a view to raising the quality of health care. The list, which would be published, would be effective as from 1 January 2017. Students who have already embarked on medical studies in institutions that do not appear on the list, would be considered for registration to the Medical Council.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation, on a pilot basis, of an e-health Project at the Accident & Emergency and Unsorted Outpatient Departments of Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital. The main objective of the Project is to have a single integrated source of information and a focal point of reference on all matters related to health with improved resource planning, allocation, monitoring and evaluation through the use of appropriate information technology. In the first instance, four modules, namely the Medical Records, Nursing Management, Patient Management and the Pharmacy Services, would be computerized. On successful implementation of the Project, it would be extended to other regional hospitals and health institutions.

4. Cabinet has taken note that a Letter of Agreement has been signed by the NIC Healthcare Ltd with Omega Ark Investments PLC for the sale of the business of the Apollo Bramwell Hospital, excluding the hospital building and leasehold rights on the State land. An Assets Purchase Agreement would be signed shortly. Omega Ark Investments PLC would start operating the Hospital as from 1 August 2016.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 71,806 tourists visited Mauritius in June 2016 as compared to 65,459 in June 2015, i.e., an increase of 9.7%. For the period January to June 2016, tourist arrivals reached 586,464 as compared to 534,182 during the same period in 2015. Growth had been registered in arrivals from Germany (+73.7%), Italy (+35.6%), France (+13.7%), India (+11.4%), Reunion Island (+4.6%), South Africa (+2.1%) and United Kingdom (+0.8%).

6. Cabinet has taken note that the National Flag (Standard Size and Dimension, Colour Codes and Materials) Regulations would be promulgated to regulate the colour code, size and material of the National Flag to be used as mast, desk/handheld and car flags, in accordance with the Mauritius Standard MS 1:1 of the Mauritius Standards Bureau. The Colour Codes are as follows: -

| Colour | Pantone Fashion Home Cotton |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Red | 18-1664TC |
| Blue | 19-3939TC |
| Yellow | 14-0957TC |
| Green | 17-6030TC |

The Regulations would be effective as from 1 November 2016.

7. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from the Civil Aviation Administration of China would visit Mauritius from 18 to 20 July 2016, and among others, have talks on the proposed setting up of a Regional Civil Aviation Academy by Airports of Mauritius.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the fifth edition of Infotech Rodrigues would be held from 05 to 07 August 2016 at Malabar. The Exhibition would comprise -

- (a) an ICT Exhibition by ICT companies, including Internet Service Providers, operating in Mauritius and Rodrigues;
- (b) Career Guidance/Job Fair;
- (c) an Innovation Space (NCB Innovation Lab, MT/EON Virtual Reality, etc.);
- (d) promotion of ICT literacy and capacity building; and
- (e) promotion of the ICT Skills and Development Programme for generic training and work placement in the ICT/BPO sector.

IT/BPO companies and training institutions from Mauritius would, for the first time, be present for the recruitment of employees and enrolment of students.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the programme of activities that would be organised in the context of the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr at national level, namely, –

- (a) ghazal by Mr Adeel Khan Burki from Pakistan;
- (b) performances by a light Classical and Sufi Music Troupe led by Shri Fareed Ahmed Khan, and a Ghazal Troupe led by Babar Ali Mehdi; and
- (c) a lunch for inmates of orphanages, day care centres and centres for persons with disabilities.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the SADC ICT Sub-Sector Committee (SCOM) being held in Mauritius from 30 August to 2 September 2016. The Committee would review the Agenda for the ICT Ministers Meeting scheduled to be held in October next in Swaziland. The Ministers Meeting would, among others, assess and review progress in the implementation of the Digital SADC 2027 Master Plan. In view of the fact that Mauritius ranks first in Cyber Security in Africa, Member States have expressed their desire to seize the opportunity to learn from the Mauritian experience.

11. Cabinet has taken note that, during the recent visit of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to Saudi Arabia, he had a meeting with the Board of the National Tawafa Establishment for Pilgrims of the Non-Arab African Countries on the facilities, including accommodation, that would be made available to Mauritian pilgrims proceeding to Hajj pilgrimage, and the rates for the special services provided. The Vice-Prime Minister also had a meeting with His Royal Highness Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on, among others, additional visas for Hajj pilgrimage and the opening of the Mauritian Embassy in Riyaadh and a Consulate in Jeddah.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent meeting of the Joint Committee on the existing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between Mauritius and the European Union. The Fisheries Partnership Agreement establishes the terms and conditions under which vessels, registered in and flying the flag of the European Union, may carry out tuna fishing in the Mauritian waters in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international laws and practices. The Joint Committee reviewed, among others, the implementation of the provisions of the existing Protocol and also considered a new Protocol prepared in the light of the EU Common Fisheries Policy in 2013, and the recent recommendations of the EU Court of Auditors regarding management of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius would hold a Workshop on “*Ocean Acidification – Development of Monitoring Capabilities*” from 26 to 30 July 2016. The objective of the Workshop is to impart practical training including the use of latest technology, to early career scientists and researchers in the field of ocean acidification from Mauritius, the Seychelles, Mozambique, South Africa, Cameroon, Congo and Algeria. The main benefits of the Workshop will be an increased capacity to measure and study ocean acidification, and networking among scientists working on ocean acidification in Africa.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Botswana where he attended the SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Meetings. The issues discussed were, *inter alia*, -

- (a) the Safeguard Measures on Margarine and Spread;
- (b) the SADC Rules of Origin;
- (c) the Action Plan of SADC Industrialisation Strategy; and
- (d) progress in Tripartite and Continental Free Trade Areas.

In the margins of the Meetings, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had discussions on the consolidation of the bilateral cooperation, including the possibilities of the setting up of Special Economic Zones and Joint Commissions with, among others, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Minister of Trade and Investment of Botswana, the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In South Africa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had discussions, among others, with the Minister of Finance of South Africa on the Double Taxation Agreement, the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, and with the representatives of the Paramount Group on the setting up of a shipyard in Mauritius.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to Singapore. The aim of the visit was to promote exchanges in the context of ongoing reforms in the education and training sector, particularly the implementation of the Nine Year Continuous Basic Education project, reforms in the TVET sector, and the development of Polytechnics in Mauritius. The Minister met Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) with whom she discussed possible avenues of cooperation and visited, among others, -

- (a) the Ngee Ann Polytechnic that has an annual total enrolment of 24,000 students;
- (b) the Institute of Technical Education, the largest publicly-funded post-secondary education institution;
- (c) the Council of Private Education, a statutory board that regulates the private education sector; and
- (d) the Singapore Examination and Assessment Board, which oversees the conduct of assessments at school level.
