

CABINET DECISIONS – 20 MAY 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to each of the 115 planters of the former Riche Terre Land Settlement being allocated, on lease, a plot of land at Khoyratty and Pamplémousses for residential purposes. The allocation of the land to the planters would redress the unfair treatment and inadequate compensation that had been given to them in the wake of the Jinfei Project.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Office of Public Sector Governance would carry out a study on the management of the National Transport Authority, and make recommendations on how to improve service delivery and transform the Authority into a more effective and user-friendly organization.

3. Cabinet has taken note that Rose Hill Transport Bus Services Ltd proposes to import and operate, on a pilot basis, a double decker bus on the route Place Cardinal Margéot, Rose Hill to Victoria Square, Port Louis via Ebène. A road test would be effected prior to authorizing the operation of the bus to guarantee the safety of road users.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities signing a Master Task Agreement with the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, USA, for the construction of a Centralized Radiological Source Storage Facility. The Facility would be used for the long term storage of disused radioactive sources, which cannot be returned to the manufacturers or suppliers. The Radiation Protection Authority would be responsible for the transportation of the disused radioactive sources to the Facility in accordance with the Guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2015-2016) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the supplementary appropriation, by votes of expenditure, both recurrent and capital, in respect of services of Government for the financial year 2015-2016, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2015-2016) Act 2015.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the National Open Source Action Plan for the operationalisation of the National Open Source Policy and the National Open Source Strategy. The objective of the Policy and the Strategy is to create the right environment for the adoption, development and use of Open Source Software in the public, private and educational sectors, as well as the civil society. The Open Source Software is used as a lever for the development of the information society, enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and lowering financial and technical barriers to access new ICT technologies.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management being responsible for the planting and lopping of trees, trimming of plants, and the general embellishment along motorways and the major road networks, as well as for the upkeep of the green areas along the roundabouts.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the list of Public Holidays for the year 2017 which is as follows -

New Year	Sunday 01 January
New Year	Monday 02 January
Chinese Spring Festival	Saturday 28 January
Abolition of Slavery	Wednesday 01 February
Thaipooosam Cavadee	Thursday 09 February
Maha Shivaratree	Friday 24 February
Independence and Republic Day	Sunday 12 March
Ugaadi	Wednesday 29 March
Labour Day	Monday 01 May
Eid-UI-Fitr**	Monday 26 June
Ganesh Chaturthi	Saturday 26 August
Divali	Thursday 19 October
All Saints Day	Wednesday 01 November
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Thursday 02 November
Christmas	Monday 25 December

** *The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.*

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Global Women's Forum for the Economy and Society would hold its next meeting in Mauritius in June 2016. The Global Women's Forum for the Economy and Society is a platform to reflect and share ideas on the crucial need to transform economies and societies around the world. The theme chosen for the 2016 edition is "**Building the Future with Women's Vision**". Topics that are linked to climate change would be discussed, and include, among others, -

- (a) climate change and health;
- (b) climate, agriculture and biodiversity; and
- (c) climate and renewable energy.

Around 400 participants comprising business leaders, entrepreneurs, policy makers, researchers and scientists from various countries would attend the Forum.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation would sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in Academic Activity with IBM (Mauritius) Ltd. The objective of signing the Memorandum of Understanding with IBM is to leverage on the Middle East Africa University program of IBM, which is a new Academic Professional Technical Certification Program for Universities in areas of latest emerging technologies. The Middle East Africa University program covers several Certification Tracks, which prepare students for job positions that are currently required in the IT Sector, such as Cognitive Technologies, Cyber Security, Data Science, Business Intelligence, E-Business and Enterprise Applications.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of Mauritius in the 19th Session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development Meeting held in Geneva in May 2016. Mauritius has unanimously been elected as the Vice-Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development for the year 2016. The 19th Session reviewed progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and addressed two themes, namely Smart cities and infrastructure, and Foresight for digital development.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security would make the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (Delivery of Canes for Production of Juice) Regulations to regulate the sale of sugar cane to a person engaged in the production of fresh juice for direct consumption.

13. Cabinet has taken note that rehabilitation works at La Ferme Dam would be carried out shortly. In this connection, the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities is making arrangements for the relocation of some 126 families, who are residing illegally on the banks of the Dam, and 26 private properties located immediately downstream of the spillway.
