

CABINET DECISIONS – 22 JULY 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note that, during his recent visit to Rodrigues, the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister, inaugurated the first Citizen's Advice Bureau, and had discussions with Members of the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, as well as Mr F. François, Parliamentary Private Secretary, on, among others, –

- (a) the proposed amendments to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001, including the review of the Proportional Representation System;
- (b) the proposed signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on exchange programmes in the fields of education, tourism, culture, sports, agriculture, marine and crafts, with *La Ville de Tampon*, Reunion Island, and the City of Victoria, Seychelles; and
- (c) the setting up of new structures adapted to Rodrigues in the context of the wider reforms of the Civil Service.

In the margins of his visit, the Prime Minister also attended the International Kite Surf Festival organized by the International Kite Surf Federation, in collaboration with the Rodrigues Kite Surf Association.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Technical Committee, under the chair of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, to make recommendations for raising awareness of the Educational Sector on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention in line with the decision of the Conference of States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The Convention aims at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. The Conference of States Parties has called upon all States Parties to encourage and promote efforts to mount awareness programmes for students on the provisions of the Convention and the domestic laws relevant to the Convention by, *inter alia*, –

- (a) incorporating information in the Convention, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the domestic legislation into secondary and university courses, where appropriate, for students of relevant disciplines, such as, chemistry, history, law, political science, international relations, security studies, human rights, and other social sciences;
- (b) teaching ethics in chemistry classes; and
- (c) the development and production of relevant education tools for specific target groups.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security would amend the National Agricultural Products Regulations 2013 to, among others, –

- (a) provide for the inclusion of goat and sheep within the purview of the regulations;
- (b) prohibit the slaughter of small goats and sheep weighing less than 7 kgs, and pregnant does and ewes; and
- (c) prohibit the slaughter of milch cattle, except when authorised by a Veterinary Officer.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of a Gender Development Index for Mauritius in line with the African Gender Development Index developed by the Economic Commission for Africa. The Index would provide for a mechanism to measure the status of women as compared to men in the social, economic and political spheres. The objectives are, *inter alia*, to –

- (a) provide policymakers and their partners with an appropriate tool to measure gender equality and equity, and women's empowerment and advancement;
- (b) help monitor progress made in implementing Conventions that have been ratified; and
- (c) democratize statistics and qualitative monitoring tools that are effective and easy to use.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the Health Statistics Report 2015 that provides information, *inter alia*, on Population and Vital Statistics, Infrastructure and Personnel, Services, Morbidity and Mortality. In the light of the analysis of the data, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has put in place various strategies aiming at reinforcing the prevention of diseases, and implementing projects to improve the health status of the population, namely, –

- (a) the setting up of a Cancer Centre;
- (b) the opening of a second Cardiac Surgery Sub-Centre at Victoria Hospital;
- (c) the setting up of a Vascular Surgery Unit at Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital; and
- (d) the computerisation of the health records system/e-health system.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport to France at the invitation of the World Road

Association. The Association provides a global forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience on roads and road transport policies and practices. Visits were organised to various infrastructural facilities, plants and laboratories and meetings held with Senior Officials of the respective organisations. The Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport also met –

- (a) Mr Matthias Fekl, *Secrétaire d'État auprès du Ministre des Affaires étrangères et du Développement international chargé du Commerce Extérieur, de la Promotion du Tourisme et des Français de l'étranger* with whom he discussed capacity building of the engineers of the Road Development Authority and development trend in road construction and maintenance; and
- (b) the President and the Secretary General of the World Road Association who proposed to organise a regional Seminar in Mauritius on the theme “*Road Safety*”.

The Minister visited, among others, -

- (a) the Laboratory of Colas Group where he took note of the innovative technological solutions to road/pavement construction and maintenance with considerable cost savings;
- (b) the Enterprise J.C. Decaux, a multinational Corporation based in Paris, and famous for bus stop advertising, and innovative street furniture concepts, that could be used in the programme for the construction of new bus terminal projects; and
- (c) Tunnel A86, as well as the Control Centre of the Tunnel, in the light of the Ring Road Project.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to China. The Minister attended -

- (a) the 10th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum New Champions. The theme of the Meeting was “*The Fourth Industrial Revolution and its Transformational Impact*”. The Meeting focused on major transformations occurring in the economic and social spheres, as well as on industries as influenced by the Fourth Industrial Revolution which essentially concerns the Internet of Things; and
- (b) the GSMA Mobile World Congress which is the premier event where mobile industry leaders collaborate, share new ideas and discuss upcoming trends and tools.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation met Mr Li Peng, President of Huawei for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Mr Abel Deng Feng, CEO of the Huawei Multi-Country Representative Office who have agreed to invest in an Innovation Centre and Demo Site in partnership with Mauritius Telecom and the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Board of the National Transport Corporation has decided to appoint Mrs Jayavadee Sooben, Deputy Permanent Secretary posted at the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, to act as Officer-in-Charge of the National Transport Corporation for a period of one year. Mrs Sooben holds an International Diploma in Public Administration from *l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration*, France; a Bachelor of Administration from the University of South Africa, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Leicester, UK. She has acted as Officer-in-Charge of the National Transport Corporation in the past.
