

CABINET DECISIONS – 26 AUGUST 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the Pre-market Test and Certification Scheme managed by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA). The main objective of the Scheme is to assist eligible enterprises in tapping additional and more profitable markets for their products, and ensuring delivery of safe food to customers. Under the Scheme, a grant of up to Rs200,000 for a maximum of five products would be provided to micro and small enterprises with an annual turnover of not more than Rs10 million, and involved in the food processing activities. The enterprises should be registered with SMEDA.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives is mounting a sensitization campaign to motivate small producers to, either join the community-based cooperative credit unions, or set up new ones to create a source of funding to enable them to start up a small business, as recommended by the Truth and Justice Commission. Informative pamphlets and other materials on cooperative credit unions and incentives available for cooperatives, including the SME Development Scheme, would be distributed during the campaign. The campaign would be launched at Trou d'Eau Douce in early September this year. The National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship would train members of new cooperative credit unions in the operation and management of credit unions in accordance with the principles of good governance.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements being made by the Municipal City Council of Port Louis to accommodate a last batch of 437 eligible hawkers, operating in the region of Port Louis, at Ruisseau du Pouce and Monneron Fair (*La Case Cassée*) following a new exercise carried out recently. For security and sanitary reasons, hawkers dealing in vegetables and foodstuff would be accommodated only at Monneron Fair, whilst those dealing in non-foodstuff would be accommodated at both Ruisseau du Pouce and Monneron Fair (*La Case Cassée*).

4. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a New Comprehensive Grant Formula as recommended by the Technical Working Group, chaired by Dr R. Jugurnath, former Director of Audit, to finance private grant-aided secondary schools during the period 2016-2018. The New Formula focuses on the services that Government finances in respect of private secondary education, namely, the use of the totality of the school infrastructure, the management and operational services of the school, and students completing successfully their secondary schooling. The Rodrigues element of the New Grant Formula makes provision for the specificity of Rodrigues. The Report has also proposed a reduction in class/school size taking into consideration the declining school population, and to ameliorate the teaching and learning process.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a State Land Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, under the chair of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, that would, among others, –

- (a) ensure that applications for State lands are being processed within the time limit set in the New Policy Framework;
- (b) review/update guidelines/procedures in respect of applications for State lands and any matter related thereto;
- (c) make proposals for the review and amendment of the enactments and policies, including the sale of State lands of *Pas Géométriques*, as and when required;
- (d) ensure that all uncommitted State lands are used in a judicious manner; and
- (e) follow up on progress achieved in the setting up of the Digital State Land Register.
