

CABINET DECISIONS – 27 MAY 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Protection from Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Protection from Domestic Violence Act to provide for better protection to victims of domestic violence by, *inter alia*, -

- (a) increasing the powers of Enforcement Officers;
- (b) widening the definition of the term “domestic violence” to include –
any of the following acts committed by a person against his spouse, a child of his spouse, or another person living under the same roof –
 - (i) willfully inflicting, or attempting to inflict, a wound or a blow, or threatening to inflict a wound or a blow;
 - (ii) willfully or knowingly placing or attempting to place, or threatening to place, the spouse or the other person in fear of physical injury to himself or to one of his children;
 - (iii) intimidating, harassing, stalking, ill-treating, insulting, or brutalising;
 - (iv) compelling the spouse or the other person by force or threat to engage in any conduct or act, sexual or otherwise, from which the spouse or the other person has the right to abstain;
 - (v) confining or detaining the spouse or the other person, against his will;
 - (vi) harming, or threatening to harm, a child of the spouse;
 - (vii) causing or attempting to cause, or threatening to cause, damage to the spouse’s or the other person’s property; and
 - (viii) depriving, without any lawful excuse, the spouse or other person of resources which the spouse or other person is entitled to or requires, or of payment for rent in respect of shared residence;
- (c) providing that a person who does an act of domestic violence against his spouse, a child of his spouse or another person living under the same roof, shall commit an offence; and
- (d) empowering a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent to arrest a person where, following an act of domestic violence, physical injury has ensued.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Anti-Personnel Mines and Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to give effect to –

- (a) the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; and
- (b) the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the adoption, for official use, of a consolidated map of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Extended Continental Shelf of the Republic of Mauritius. The consolidated map delimits the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius, as well as the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau region jointly managed by Mauritius and the Seychelles. The boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius and the Mauritius/Seychelles Extended Continental Shelf have been delimited using the geographical coordinates published under the Maritime Zones Act 2005.

4. Cabinet has taken note that a full feasibility study would be carried out on the implementation of the Liquefied Natural Gas project for the production of electricity. Natural gas plants are ideal backup capacity for renewable energy, less polluting than coal, diesel and heavy fuel oil, and also act as anticipated investment for future semi-base and peak load needs. The assessment would include the technical, economic and financial feasibility and advice on the best financial model for implementing the project, as well as an assessment of environmental and social impact, and assistance in the appointment of Transaction Advisers.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports extending collaboration with the Mauritius Professional Football League and the Mauritius Football Association in their endeavour to professionalise football in Mauritius. One of the main objectives of the Professional Football League project is to create a football industry in Mauritius. Since the launch of the project in 2014, some 300 direct jobs have been created, and an average of 5,000 spectators attend football matches in the five stadiums every weekend. The project has also contributed to improving the FIFA ranking of our national football team from 190th position in 2014 to 154th in 2016. Government would continue to support the Professional Football League project financially for another three years.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the project for the conversion of the Ex-Labourdonnais Military Hospital, situated at Quay Street, Port Louis, into a Galerie d'Art Nationale. The project consists of the conservation, consolidation and restoration of the existing building, and the design and setting up of the gallery display. The Galerie would maintain a permanent collection of works of art, as well as display temporary exhibitions by local and foreign artists.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the endorsement of the implementation of the *Programme de coopération Interreg V Océan Indien 2014-2020*, without prejudice to the sovereignty of Mauritius on Tromelin and our stand on Mayotte. The following areas of cooperation under the Programme, which are in line with the policy of Government and, in particular, Vision 2030, have been considered as being the drivers of growth –

- (a) development of research and innovation in the Indian Ocean;
- (b) support to the development of trade in the region;
- (c) capacity building for climate change adaptation, risk prevention and risk management;
- (d) protection of the environment and promotion of a rational use of resources; and
- (e) investment in education, training and vocational training.

Mauritius would submit the following three projects for consideration by the *Comité de Suivi* for the Programme –

- (a) renewable energy;
- (b) setting up of innovation and technology parks; and
- (c) development of smart agriculture, on a triangular basis with Mauritius/Reunion Island/Seychelles and Mauritius/Reunion Island/Madagascar.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the team of students from Le Chou College of Rodrigues won the *Coupe du Monde de Slam de Poésie* organized by the *Fédération Française de Slam de Poésie* and held in Paris on 24 May 2016.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised in the context of the World No Tobacco Day 2016 observed on 31 May. The theme chosen by the World Health Organisation for this year is **Plain Packaging**. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, among others, -

- (a) organise a workshop to brainstorm on the theme;
- (b) mount an aggressive sensitization campaign on the ill-effects of tobacco use and on current tobacco control policies; and
- (c) distribute booklets on Tobacco Cessation Clinic to all health professionals in the regional hospitals.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized to mark the Music Day on 21 June, namely -

- (a) special lunch time '*Espaces Musicaux*' at conspicuous venues in Port Louis;
- (b) a musical concert on 18 June 2016 at Pointe Canon Theatre;
- (c) musical platforms in various regions; and
- (d) music activities in schools to sensitize the student population on the importance of music.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Dragon Boat Festival would be celebrated on 05 June 2016 at Le Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis. In this context, the Ministry of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and other organizations, would, among others, organize a Dragon Boat Race, a *défilé* of lions and dragons, cultural items and a programme by the Chengdu Artistic Troupe of the People's Republic of China.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to China where he participated in the First World Conference on Tourism for Peace and Development organized jointly by the Republic of China and the World Tourism Organisation. During the Conference, emphasis was laid on the importance of tourism as a leverage for poverty alleviation and social progress, as well as a window for cultural exchanges and diversified cooperation with other countries. A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Strengthening Comprehensive Civil Aviation Cooperation was signed with the Chinese Aviation Administration of China.

In the margins of the Conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Tuniu.com, one of the largest Outbound Tourist Operators in China, providing for the development of a strategic partnership between the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and Tuniu.com. The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications also had meetings, among others, with the Shanghai Restaurant Cuisine Association, and Tour Operators.

Cabinet has also taken note of the results of a recent survey carried out by the China National Tourism Administration, whereby Mauritius was voted first out of 100 international destinations, as the place that most Chinese tourists want to visit.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Jury Panel that will carry out the adjudication exercise for the Public Service Excellence Award 2015, would be chaired by Mrs Hélène Echevin. Mrs Echevin has a rich track record and wide experience in top management positions in the private sector. The theme for the Award was “*Creativity and Innovation to Improve Public Service Delivery*”.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees of -

- (a) the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust with Mr Arjoon Putlajee as Chairperson;
- (b) the Mauritius Tamil Cultural Centre Trust with Mrs Velamah Cathapermal-Nair as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Mauritius Telugu Cultural Centre Trust with Mr Rajah Gowressoo as Chairperson.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation with Mr Mekraj Baldowa as Chairperson.

Cabinet has also taken note that Mr Amoordalingum Amirthawsamy Pather has been appointed Director General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation. Mr Pather is a former Director of Engineering of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and has served as Chief Executive Officer of Multi Carrier (Mtius) Ltd.
