

**CABINET DECISIONS – 29 JANUARY 2016**

1. Cabinet has taken note that a High Powered Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Assistant Solicitor General to, among others, review the Copyright Act 2014 to safeguard the interest of artists taking into consideration the suggestions of stakeholders.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the issue of an Expression of Interest for the conduct of Multi-Client Seismic Surveys for hydrocarbon exploration in four areas of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius, in line with Government objective to promote research expedition in the quest for fossil fuel and other minerals that can be sustainably exploited. The data acquired from the Surveys would constitute a prime dataset for Government to negotiate and allocate future concession areas in the EEZ of Mauritius for detailed exploration and exploitation.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the Report "Smart Youth 2020", an initiative to revamp the Youth Sector of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The main recommendations of the Report include, –

- (a) a review of the vision and mission statement of the Youth Sector to include Smart Youth philosophy;
- (b) proactive strategies, goals and objectives to be widely discussed and incorporated in all youth programmes and initiatives;
- (c) the development of appropriate policies and planned programmes within a pedagogy in areas of Informal Education, Employment and Employability, Entrepreneurship, Wellness and Attitude, and Recreational Activities;
- (d) a greater involvement of the National Youth Council in the implementation of youth programmes; and
- (e) a review of the National Youth Council Act.

An Action Plan is being worked out based on the recommendations of the Report.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China on the Provision of Goods for Addressing Climate Change. The People's Republic of China would donate LED tubes to replace fluorescent tubes in public offices, and LED solar lighting units worth 20 million Renminbi (around Rs105 million) as well as provide training facilities under the Climate Change South-South Cooperation Programme.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of a Framework Agreement for new house connections to the waste water network in sewerred areas with a view to allowing the Wastewater Management Authority to carry out a greater number of connections within a shorter time frame.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a Swimming and Water Awareness project, known as '*Natation Scolaire (Primaire)*', on a pilot basis, for pupils of Standard IV in 20 primary schools. The aim of the project is to promote the practice of sports activities among students at a very young age. The project would be run during the first term of 2016 for one hour per week, over a period of 10 weeks. Appropriate arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the security and safety of the children.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of an Industrial Waste Assessment Project by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection, with the assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The main objectives of the project are to –

- (a) develop a pool of expertise among both public officials and enterprises on industrial waste characterisation for improved identification, characterisation and quantification;
- (b) generate data and other information, through the industrial waste characterisation, that can determine opportunity for a national and regional industrial symbiosis programme, as well as for the setting up of a recycling industry; and
- (c) determine amendments that may be required in the legislative framework on industrial waste management.

The project would involve industrial waste characterisation exercise in some 25 enterprises in the textile, agro-industry, seafood, chemical and printing sectors.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Project Plan Committee to include 18 projects to the tune of Rs1.3 billion in the Public Sector Investment Programme. The projects include the relocation of the Forensic Science Laboratory at La Vigie, extension of the Police Hangar at SSR International Airport, and coastal zone adaptation works at Mont Choisy and Rivière des Galets. The projects that have been recommended for Rodrigues include the construction and upgrading of roads, the construction of a Fire Station, schools and a Fishing Port, the computerization of the Health Sector, and design study for the improvement of the Health Services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the visit of HE Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to Mauritius from 31 January to 2 February 2016. HE Mr Wang Yi will have discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade on bilateral issues.

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10. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius submitting an initial offer in Construction and Energy-related Services to be used as a bargaining leverage in the context of SADC Trade in Services negotiations. The offer in Construction Services covers, among others, buildings, civil engineering, building completion and finishing works and special construction works. As regards the energy-related services, the offer covers, *inter alia*, management consulting services, technical testing and analysis services, engineering-related scientific and technical consulting services, and maintenance and repair of equipment.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that the *Conseil International des Jeux* (CIJ) Meeting would be held in Mauritius on 17 and 18 February 2016 to discuss the organisation of the 10th edition of the Indian Ocean Islands Games scheduled for 2019.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that the '*Séminaire-atelier des Correspondantes et Correspondants Nationaux (CNs) de la Conférence des ministres de l'Éducation des États et gouvernements de la Francophonie (CONFEMEN)*' would be held in Mauritius in February 2016. The main objectives of the Meeting are to –

- (a) work upon the Agenda and technical papers for the 57th Ministerial Meeting;
- (b) identify areas in which CONFEMEN could contribute to the implementation of the Framework for Action - Education 2030;
- (c) develop appropriate strategies to strengthen the capacity of the CNs to effectively contribute towards attaining the CONFEMEN goals; and
- (d) share good practices for innovative and sustainable funding of Education.

Some 70 international participants from Member States, members of the CONFEMEN Secretariat, and representatives of the donor community would attend the Meeting.

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13. Cabinet has taken note of the spread of Zika virus in South America and other countries. The virus is spread following the bite of an infected mosquito. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has established a protocol to control the eventual spread of the disease in Mauritius. All countries with current Zika virus infection have been placed on the list for surveillance of incoming passengers for follow up and monitoring. The public is advised to take appropriate measures to avoid stagnation of water during rainfall to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised in the context of World Cancer Day 2016, commemorated on 4 February. The theme chosen to mark the World Cancer Day for the period 2016 to 2018 is **'We can. I can'**. The programme of activities includes –

- (a) the launching of the campaign on the screening for breast and cervical cancer on 4 February 2016 at Chebel, as well as food exhibitions on healthy eating; and
- (b) talks and sensitization campaigns on the risk factors of cancer, and the preventive measures.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Fourth Mauritius-EU Political Dialogue held in Mauritius on 18 January 2016. The main issues discussed were –

- (a) Socio-Economic Reforms, Perspectives for becoming a High Income Country and the 11th European Development Fund, the National Indicative Programme and the Regional Indicative Programme;
- (b) Cooperation with the European Union regarding the Economic Partnership Agreement;
- (c) Fisheries Partnership Agreement and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
- (d) Post-Cotonou 2020 Agreement;
- (e) the current European Investment Bank Projects;
- (f) Climate Change, SWITCH Africa Green and Sustainable Development; and
- (g) Economic Integration and Free Trade Agreements.

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16. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research participated in the Education World Forum (EWF) 2016, the British Educational Training and Technology (BETT) and a meeting of the Commonwealth Education Ministers Action Group (EMAG) held in the UK from 19 to 22 January 2016. The theme of the EWF was '*New beginnings in learning, education and skills – Education policy priorities for the next decade or more*'. The Forum focused on new policies, actions and solutions for –

- (a) basic knowledge, literacies and understanding;
- (b) development of skills for life and vocations; and
- (c) engendering enterprise and entrepreneurship.

The BETT Exhibition showcased the best information technology products in education and the EMAG Meeting reviewed the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for Education in Commonwealth countries.

The Minister had bilateral meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mr Michael O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Cambridge International Examinations on follow up on issues relating to the HSC Professional and training of teachers, and the design of the new School Certificate Technical; and
- (b) Professor Micheal Reiss of the Institute of Education, London on the strengthening of the teaching of science in Mauritius.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment in the Sixth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy (IRENA) held in Abu Dhabi. The Assembly focused on the critical role of renewable energy in the implementation of the COP 21 Agreement. Discussions were held on IRENA's strategic and programmatic direction to help countries accelerate deployment of renewable energy.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to India where, as Guest of Honour, he attended the Fourth Edition of the India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference. The Conference provided a forum for Ministers and leaders in the world of energy to network with other influential peers, share their vision, exchange expert insights and develop strategies for the next big steps towards enhanced energy cooperation. The Minister also had meetings with the Hon Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Hon Smt Nirmala Sitharam, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India. Discussions focussed, *inter alia*, on the supply of petroleum products to Mauritius, and the purchase of tanker vessels for the transportation thereof.

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19. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to India where he participated in the First Meeting of the Joint Committee between India and Mauritius on cooperation in the field of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Sector. The Minister also had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) the Hon Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries of the Government of Maharashtra on cooperation for the development of the handicraft, furniture and textile sectors; and
- (b) HE Eng. Wassfi Hassan EL Streihin, Secretary General of African-Asian Rural Development Organization, on cooperation for the provision of technical assistance for the development of the non-sugar sector, capacity building for the SME sector, and the setting up of a Centre of Excellence for the fisheries sector.

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20. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management to the Netherlands where he, among others, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Stichting Deltares and UNESCO IHE Institute for Water Education on cooperation in the field of climate change within the framework of the Global Green Fund. He also had meetings, *inter alia*, with –

- (a) Hon Mrs Schultz van Haegen, Minister of Environment and Public Infrastructure on disaster management;
- (b) Mr Lenneke IJzendoorn, Directorate General for the Environment and International Affairs, Netherlands on technical assistance on climate change adaptation for the coastal zone and management of disasters; and
- (c) Mr Peter Persoon, Director of the Public Water Management on technical assistance with regard to storm surge protection for Small Islands Developing States.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Medical Council of Mauritius for period 2016 to 2018.

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