

CABINET DECISIONS – 03 JUNE 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Utility Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Utility Regulatory Authority Act in order to review the qualifications for the appointment of the Chairperson and the Commissioners of the Board of the Utility Regulatory Authority in order to attract more candidates to these positions.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2015) (No. 2) 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 period of 6 months ended 30 June 2015, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2015) Act.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations of the Project Plan Committee to include 35 projects to the tune of Rs3.2 billion in the Public Sector Investment Programme. The projects include -

- (a) the reconstruction of B104 Road (Baie du Cap-Chamarel-Case Noyale) at Chamarel;
- (b) the repair of the embankment failure along Terre Rouge-Verdun Link Road at Ripailles;
- (c) the reconstruction of Pont Bruniquel;
- (d) the construction of a total of 490 housing units at Henrietta, Goodlands, Piton, Cottage and Souillac;
- (e) the construction of a new Custom House at SSR International Airport;
- (f) the construction of additional blocks in some secondary schools;
- (g) the construction of the new ENT Hospital at Vacoas, a Mediclinic at Bel Air, and a new Community Health Centre at Pointe aux Sables and Baie du Cap;
- (h) the construction of a new Sub-divisional Police Headquarters at Moka and a new Police Station at Pamplémousses; and
- (i) the upgrading of the Grade Separated Junction along M1 at Ebène, Julius Nyerere (B1) Road, Pointe aux Sables Road at Petit Verger, and Radier St. Martin at Bel Ombre.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications would make the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Regulations to regulate the operation of Remotely Piloted Aircrafts and Remotely Piloted Surveillance Aircrafts, commonly known as Drones, to ensure the safety and privacy of the public and keep our airspace safe. The regulations, among others, underline the following requirements -

- (a) the operation of a Remotely Piloted Aircraft must not endanger anyone or anything;
- (b) no individual shall cause or permit any vehicle or animal to be dropped from a Remotely Piloted Aircraft;
- (c) no operation will be carried out unless the individual flying a Remotely Piloted Aircraft is satisfied that the flight may be safely made;
- (d) the operation should be within the visual line of sight of the operator to avoid collision with other aircrafts, individuals, vehicles, walls and structures;
- (e) the flying height will be up to a maximum of 400 feet above ground level, unless authorised otherwise by the Director of Civil Aviation;
- (f) the permission of the Director of Civil Aviation will be needed to fly a Remotely Piloted Aircraft in Class A, C, D or E airspaces as notified in the Aeronautical Information Publication; and
- (g) the permission of the Air Traffic Control Unit will be needed to fly a Remotely Piloted Aircraft within an aerodrome traffic zone during notified hours.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the proposal of the Government of Japan to open a Diplomatic Mission in Mauritius. Japan is the world's third largest economy and is an important development and trade partner for Mauritius. Japan and Mauritius established diplomatic relations in 1969. The opening of the Mission would further consolidate the existing bilateral ties, and strengthen collaboration in regional and international fora. It would also help increase the visibility of Mauritius as an attractive destination for Japanese tourists and investment.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the United Nations Operation Services would hold a Regional Training for Trainers Workshop on Communication and Integrated Water Resource Management in Mauritius in July 2016. The aim of the Workshop is to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiary countries, i.e., Cape Verde, Sao Tome & Principe, the Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and the Seychelles, to implement the Integrated Water Resource Management, and initiate an effective communication strategy. The Integrated Water Resource Management Project addresses issues related to the management of water resources in an integrated manner, and promotes water use efficiency plans for the protection and utilization of groundwater and surface water.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the International Atomic Energy Agency would hold a regional training course on the Integrated Management System for a Regulatory Body in Mauritius in July 2016. The aim of the training course is to assist regulatory bodies of African Member States, namely Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, to establish an Integrated Management System for the effective regulatory control of radiation facilities and activities in their respective countries in line with the safety standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the EmergiTech 2016 Conference on “*Emerging Technologies and Innovative Business Practices for the Transformation of Societies*”, would be held in Mauritius in August 2016. The Conference aims at providing an interdisciplinary forum where industry, public sector representatives, and academia will meet to discuss recent innovations, trends, and concerns regarding the evolution of technology and its impact on society and businesses.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the 22nd UN International Day of Cooperatives and the 94th International Cooperative Alliance Day would be celebrated on 2 July 2016. The theme for this year is “**Cooperatives: The power to act for a sustainable future**”. On the occasion, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives would organize, among others, the following activities -

- (a) a Gathering of Cooperators at Octave Wiéhe Auditorium, University of Mauritius, Réduit on 02 July 2016;
- (b) an exhibition to showcase the products of and the services offered by cooperators, as well as the facilities, incentives and schemes available to boost the Cooperatives Sector;
- (c) a national workshop for the formulation of an Action Plan on Sustainable Development Goals for Cooperatives; and
- (d) a *Festival du Poisson* on the theme “Sustainable Seafood Production” at the *Maison des Pêcheurs* in Mahebourg.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized on the occasion of the World Blood Donor Day, commemorated on 14 June. The theme chosen by the World Health Organization is “**Blood connects us all**”. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, among others, -

- (a) organise a one-day Workshop on the theme “**Strengthening Blood Safety**”; and
- (b) carry out sensitization campaigns on the need for blood donation, blood transfusion and safety.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to the United Kingdom in the context of a Buyers-Sellers Meeting organised by Enterprise Mauritius. The main objective of the Meeting was to offer opportunities to Mauritian business operators to further boost export to the United Kingdom and manufacturers to establish contacts with UK buyers who are currently doing business with other countries. Companies, which participated in the event, are expecting orders from the UK clients.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection had meetings with Mr Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of International Trade at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Lord Marlan, Chairperson of Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, and Mr Ronan Quigley, Executive Director of the British Chambers of Commerce, on bilateral issues.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management to Kenya where he participated in the Second Meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The theme of the Meeting was “***Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***”.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management participated, *inter alia*, in -

- (a) a Meeting on Partnerships for addressing environmental challenges faced by SIDS in implementing the SAMOA pathway and the 2030 Agenda, which reviewed progress made in building partnerships for SIDS and the gaps and challenges faced in implementing the SAMOA Pathway;
- (b) a Forum on Partnership for an Inclusive Green Economy, where discussions focused on the need to build new and innovative partnerships to help deliver on the challenges of the 2030 Agenda through sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and
- (c) a Symposium on Mobilising Sustainable Investments, which focused on efforts made to align the financial system towards sustainable development, including international models of cooperation.
