

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 8 JANUARY 2016**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the fees, currently being charged for training courses by the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy, being considerably reduced with a view to enabling job seekers to enroll for courses offered by the Academy for eventual employment on board a vessel. The fees for Basic Safety Training, Crowd Management, Crisis Management and Human Behaviour Training and Proficiency in Security Awareness which are Rs11,000, and for the Pre-Sea Training Course which are Rs40,000, would be reduced to Rs2,000. The teaching staff of the Academy is also being reinforced.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius depositing the Instrument of Accession to the Statute of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Dock. The SIDS Dock is a centre of excellence and advocacy for the development of renewable energy technology for SIDS. It acts as a facilitator and catalysts providing experience for practical applications, long term policies and capacity building on all matters relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, and provides a mechanism for connecting with the global carbon markets.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a programme for the social and emotional wellbeing of learners, comprising, among others, the *Zippy's Friends* project, adapted to the Mauritian context. The *Zippy's Friends* project aims at promoting the development of coping skills and emotional wellbeing among young children with a view to helping them handle problems during adolescence and adult life. The Programme would be run on a pilot basis at Standard II level in eight Government primary schools across the country.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that, with a view to developing the Ocean Economy, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands has, since January 2015, approved various aquaculture projects, including the culture of Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) in floating cages, marine shrimps species, mud crab, fish, sea cucumber and oyster. It is expected that a total of some 900 jobs would be created.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Municipal City Council of Port Louis to temporarily accommodate hawkers operating in the region of Port Louis at Decaën Street (Ex-Sea Training School) and Immigration Square, Port Louis. The two sites would accommodate a total of 963 hawkers.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the fourth session of the Political Dialogue between Mauritius and the European Union would be held in Mauritius on 18 January 2016. The aims of the Dialogue are to exchange information, foster mutual understanding, facilitate the establishment of agreed priorities and shared agendas, and strengthen cooperation on various issues of mutual interest.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the proposed establishment of an Electrical and Electronic Wastes (e-Wastes) Management System as recommended by the team of Consultants from the European Union in their report on e-Waste Management. e-Wastes are classified as hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention to which Mauritius is a party. Mauritius generates about 8,000 tons of e-wastes annually, and the presence of heavy metals, including lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium make them hazardous.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the General Framework Agreement between Mauritius and France for regional cooperation with Reunion Island would be renewed for a further period of five years. The Framework Agreement aims at boosting the cooperation potential with Reunion Island in 10 priority sectors including Tourism, Sustainable Development, Health, Research and Innovation, Agro-industry and Food Security, and Economic and Trade Cooperation.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in South Africa in December 2015. The Summit adopted the Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and the Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018) which outline the way forward to bring the partnership between Africa and China to new heights. The President of the People's Republic of China announced a USD 60 billion financial package of investment and development aid, and a plan to industrialize and build capacity for the development of Africa. The plan covers areas, such as industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, infrastructure, financial services, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction and public welfare, public health, people-to-people exchanges and peace and security.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade participated in the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Kenya in December 2015. The Conference adopted the Nairobi Declaration, which embodies a fair compromise between the different perspectives of the WTO membership, and underscores the strong commitment of member States to advance negotiations on certain issues, namely Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access and Services.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Energy Efficiency Committee with Mr Kendall Tang as Chairperson.

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