

CABINET DECISIONS – 8 JULY 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministerial Committee, set up under the chair of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to reconsider the recommendations contained in the Report of the Truth and Justice Commission, has made several recommendations which are currently being implemented, including -

- (a) the setting up of an Inter-continental Museum of Slavery in Port Louis, and the Ministry of Arts and Culture acquiring exhibits that would be displayed in the Museum;
- (b) the setting up of a Land Research and Mediation Unit;
- (c) the Ministry of Arts and Culture laying more emphasis on the promotion of culture by reengineering Museums and heritage sites; and
- (d) Mr Benjamin Mootoo carrying out a study on “*The Impact of Slaves and their Descendants on the Economic Development of Mauritius*”.

Cabinet has also taken note that a number of recommendations of the Commission have been incorporated within the programme of work of Ministries for implementation at their end.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Protection of Elderly Persons (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Protection of Elderly Persons Act to enhance the level of protection of, and security to, the elderly. The Bill provides, among others, for the Officer-in-Charge of the Elderly Persons Protection Unit to summon a person with a view to seeking information, as may be necessary, in a case of abuse. Any person who fails to attend to the summon served by the Officer-in-Charge, would commit an offence and be liable to the payment of a fine or a term of imprisonment.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make Regulations under the Medical Council Act and the Dental Council Act to provide for Continuing Professional Development courses or training programmes for general practitioners, specialists, dental surgeons and dental specialists. The Regulations make provision, *inter alia*, for -

- (a) the establishment of a credit point system, whereby credit points will be allocated to different Continuing Professional Development courses and training programmes, and a general practitioner, a specialist, a dental surgeon and a dental specialist would have to acquire a number of points on a yearly basis; and

- (b) the definition of the roles and responsibilities of the Medical Council of Mauritius and the Dental Council of Mauritius and other institutions/associations/persons in relation to Continuing Professional Development courses.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands would make the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Fishing of Octopus) Regulations to introduce a seasonal closure of octopus fishing from 15 August to 15 October every year. The main objective of the fishing prohibition period is to allow the stock to reproduce and increase in size and weight.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research signing an Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The main objectives of the Agreement are to promote -

- (a) information and knowledge sharing relating to research, technological development and innovation;
- (b) the development of joint scientific and technological solutions in support of the countries' developmental agendas; and
- (c) scientific and technological research involving the countries' industrial communities.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the World Population Day 2016, commemorated on 11 July, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, *inter alia*, organize the following activities -

- (a) a Forum on the global theme for the year;
- (b) training sessions for medical and paramedical staff on sexually transmitted infections; and
- (c) sensitization programmes on substance abuse, and the risks of teenage pregnancy.

The theme for this year is “**Investing in teenage girls**”.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Airport Terminal Operations Ltd (ATOL) proposes to renew its Technical Services Agreement with *Aéroports de Paris Management S.A.*, on revised terms and conditions. The *Aéroports de Paris Management S.A.* provides technical and operation support services in relation to the new Passenger Terminal and its related facilities, and helps improve passengers' perception on safety and security measures at the SSR International Airport.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Botswana where she attended the Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs. The main objectives of the Meeting were to approve and adopt the revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which had been reviewed in order to align its targets with the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to Australia where she attended the 13th Global Conference on Ageing organized by the International Federation on Ageing. Discussions at the Conference focused, among others, on -

- (a) Disaster preparedness in an ageing population;
- (b) Preparedness planning in nutrition, food and health services;
- (c) Elder abuse, Law and Rights; and
- (d) Creating age friendly environment.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions had discussions on bilateral cooperation on issues relating to ageing with the Hon Coralee O'Rourke, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the premier on North Queensland, Australia and Dr Jane Barratt, Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council.
