

CABINET DECISIONS – 19 AUGUST 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note of the setting up of a framework for a proper implementation structure to oversee the implementation of the measures announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017. A Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, has been set up to monitor the timely implementation of the measures. The Ministerial Committee will be assisted by the following Task Forces that would ensure proper coordination, prompt implementation of the measures, rapid elimination of bottlenecks, enhanced service delivery of the public sector, and faster realisation of projects and programmes –

- (a) Task Force on Public Infrastructure Projects chaired by the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport;
- (b) Task Force on Quality of Life and Poverty Alleviation chaired by the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research; and
- (c) Task Force on Economy chaired by the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security.

As announced in the Budget Speech 2016-2017, a High Level Committee, chaired by the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, has also been set up to look into the issue of Ageing Population and the Pension System.

2. Cabinet has agreed to investing a Government-owned company with the responsibility to steer and implement the Polytechnics Project. The main objective of Polytechnics will be to provide work-ready diploma holders of high quality to spearhead the development of the country into a knowledge-based and skills-driven economy. Courses would be offered at the Polytechnics as follows –

- (a) in Middle Management, ICT and other ICT-related fields at Réduit;
- (b) in Tourism and Hotel Management, including cruise tourism, at Montagne Blanche; and
- (c) in health care for nurses, technicians and trained personnel in the medical field, especially in the maintenance of sophisticated medical equipment at Pamplémousses.

The private sector would support the identification of industry needs, designing of programmes, and placement of students for hands-on experience.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the African Ministerial Conference on Ocean Economy and Climate Change would be held in Mauritius on 01 and 02 September 2016. The Conference will bring together Government, the private sector and the civil society to –

- (a) discuss the contents of the “Africa Oceans Finance Package”;
- (b) showcase the collaboration between Mauritius and the Seychelles through the Joint Management Area;
- (c) organise a donors meeting back-to-back for Mauritius on ocean economy; and
- (d) identify concrete ocean-related projects to advance the Mauritius agenda on ocean economy and secure technical expertise from the World Bank to operationalize those projects.

Panel discussions will be led by Ministers on the following themes –

- (a) African Coastal States: “*From Living on the Edge to Harnessing the Power of the Oceans*”;
- (b) Enabling the Sustainable Ocean Economy: “*Financing*”; and
- (c) Sustainable Ocean Economy: “*The Next Development Phase of SIDS*”.

Some 60 foreign delegates would participate in the Conference.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management to New York where he participated in the High-Level Political Forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The main objectives of the Forum were to monitor and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme of the Forum was “**Ensuring that no one is left behind**”. The Minister also attended the Ministerial Dialogue Session where the reports on the implementation of SDGs of 22 countries were presented. The Dialogue was held under the following thematic areas –

- (a) Reaching the Most Vulnerable;
- (b) Challenges of Countries in Special Situations; and
- (c) Unlocking Means of Implementation for SDGs and Creating an Enabling Environment.
