

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 23 SEPTEMBER 2016**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the Foot and Mouth Disease, and that the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is pursuing with the vaccination programme across the country. Cabinet has agreed to the importation of live cattle by air from South Africa, solely by the Mauritius Meat Authority, to meet the demand of fresh meat on the local market. In addition, chilled carcasses may continue to be imported by air from Australia.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to India. The Minister had meetings with HE Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister; Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs; Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance; Shri Suresh Prabakar Prabhu, Minister of Railways; and Shri Kalraj Mishra, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises on bilateral relations and issues of strategic importance to Mauritius, including -

- (a) the financial support extended by the Government of India to Mauritius;
- (b) the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago;
- (c) fast tracking the conclusion of the long awaited Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA);
- (d) implementation of the Metro Express project; and
- (e) visa on arrival and Overseas Citizen of India Card.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development has made a request to the Prime Minister of India to increase the financial support of USD353 million (Rs12.7 billion) by an additional amount of USD200 million (Rs7.3 billion), thus bringing the total financial package to Rs20 billion. Furthermore, the Minister has also requested Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, for a grant of USD4 million (Rs144 million) for the construction of a modern Headquarters for the National Coast Guard.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development also had meetings with various business groups and business entrepreneurs, including the Confederation of Indian Industries, and the Indo-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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3. After taking into consideration the impact of the ban on export of scrap metal on metal industries operating in the Manufacturing and the Freeport Sectors, Cabinet has agreed to those companies, which import raw metal, being allowed to export their metal waste and by-products.

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4. Taking into consideration representations made by fishermen, and the weather conditions prevailing during the net fishing season, Cabinet has agreed to the net fishing season being extended by 10 days up to 10 October 2016.

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5 Cabinet has taken note that the President of the Republic has approved the constitution of the Board of the Utility Regulatory Authority with Professor Goolamhussen T.G. Mohamedbhai, GOSK, as Chairperson, and Mr Luc Eddy Astruc, Mr Rampiar Luchmun-Roy, and Mr Philip Ah Chuen as Commissioners.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius joining negotiations on the Environmental Goods Agreement currently taking place at the World Trade Organisation. The main objective of the Agreement is to eliminate tariffs on a broad range of environmental, or 'green' goods that are crucial for environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the holding of its annual History Week, the University of Mauritius would organise a Conference on the theme, "*The Gens de Couleur*" in Insular Societies: Political, Social, Cultural and Economic History, from 29 September to 1 October 2016. The Conference would provide an opportunity to enhance research on the political, social, cultural and economic history of the "*Gens de Couleur*", their significance in the history of their countries, and their contribution to the emergence of modern contemporary societies in the Indian Ocean and elsewhere. Some 30 participants from, among others, China, USA, Reunion Island, and France, would attend the Conference.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in the context of World Heart Day 2016, observed on 29 September, namely -

- (a) an open day on 29 September 2016 when screening for Non-Communicable Diseases, talks by Cardiologists and an exhibition on Non-Communicable Diseases would be held;
- (b) sensitisation campaigns on cardiovascular diseases; and
- (c) screening and health check-up for Non-Communicable Diseases and their risk factors.

The theme chosen this year is "*Creating heart-healthy environments*".

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation to mark the Inventors' Day on 29 September 2016, namely -

- (a) a Workshop on leveraging Open Source Software;
- (b) launching of an e-ideas, a new online service to enable communication with Government on technology, communication and innovation; and
- (c) a sensitisation campaign on the First ICT Best Innovative Business Idea Competition.

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