

CABINET DECISIONS – 02 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Right Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Prime Minister, to Nairobi, Kenya where he participated in the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) on an invitation of HE Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

The TICAD VI has been serving as a pioneering multilateral forum for international cooperation on African development, and a platform for promoting private investment and trade in Africa. The theme of TICAD VI was “*Advancing Africa’s sustainable development agenda - TICAD partnership for prosperity*”. The Conference addressed Africa’s emerging development challenges, and responded to pertinent continental and global agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

During his intervention in the general discussion on the theme “*TICAD in Alignment with Africa Development*”, the Prime Minister highlighted that -

- (a) Africa must imperatively diversify its economic strategy and move towards high-value products;
- (b) the ocean economy and the Services Sector, including services in Information and Communication Technology, also offered crucial new poles of growth;
- (c) the African continent must move away from fossil fuels, and embrace cleaner and renewable sources of energy;
- (d) the importance of international cooperation to, *inter alia*, undertake appropriate measures to initiate adaptation and mitigation measures with regard to the negative impact of climate change; and
- (e) the need to focus on building strong and resilient health systems that will minimise the risk of public health emergencies, which impede economic development.

The Prime Minister met HE Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, with whom he discussed, among others -

- (a) investment in areas of ocean economy, new and innovative technology, high tech manufacturing, and financial services;
- (b) the signing of a Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty and an Investment Promotion Agreement; and
- (c) direct air links between Mauritius and Japan.

In the margins of TICAD VI, the Prime Minister had bilateral meetings, among others, with the President of the Republic of South Africa, the President of the Republic of Djibouti, the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the President of the Republic of Ghana, and HE Dr Mkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of African Union Commission, and sought their support in respect of the resolution that Mauritius intends to submit at the United Nations General Assembly so that the decolonization process of Mauritius is completed, and Mauritius is able to exercise its effective control over the Chagos Archipelago. All of them responded positively to his request.

The Prime Minister also had discussions with –

- (a) the Japanese Parliamentary Group regarding investment possibilities and transfer of high end technology in IT, renewable energy and ocean economy; and
- (b) the President of the COMESA PTA Bank on the opening of a second headquarter of the Bank in Mauritius.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Fact Finding Committee on the Foot and Mouth Disease. The Committee would be chaired by Mrs Shameen B.A. Hamuth-Laulloo, Master and Registrar, and comprise Mr Aurèle Anquetil André, Manager, and Dr Dewan Sibartie, former Chief Agricultural Officer, as Assessors. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows -

- (a) to investigate into and determine how the Foot and Mouth Disease may have entered into Rodrigues;
- (b) to inquire into and determine whether there has been any failure on the part of the Veterinary Services in Rodrigues and Mauritius in the early detection and investigation of the Foot and Mouth Disease;
- (c) to inquire into and situate the responsibility for authorising the shipment of the consignments of animals from Rodrigues in the month of July 2016 and their disembarkation in Mauritius; and
- (d) to make such recommendations that the Committee may deem appropriate for strengthening the surveillance measures to minimise risks of entry of such diseases in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

3. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius ranked first in Africa on the African Human Development Index 2016. The Second African Human Development Report on "*Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa*" sheds light on key issues including –

- (a) the ongoing progress in women empowerment and gender equality;
- (b) addressing the challenges involved in improving women's health; and
- (c) the role of ICT in empowering women in disabilities.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the following Remuneration Regulations being amended to incorporate the recommendations of the National Remuneration Board on the review of wages in respect of workers drawing less than Rs6,500 per month, and the adjustment of wages of other categories of workers drawing more than Rs6,500 per month to maintain relativity in the different job categories in those Sectors –

- (a) the Cinema Employees (Remuneration Order) Regulations 2005;
- (b) the Domestic Workers (Remuneration) Regulations 2010;
- (c) the Factory Employees (Remuneration Order) Regulations 2001;
- (d) the Light Metal and Wooden Furniture Workshops (Remuneration Order) Regulations 2002;
- (e) the Nursing Homes (Remuneration Order) Regulations 1984;
- (f) the Pre-Primary School Employees (Remuneration Order) Regulations 2000;
- (g) the Salt Manufacturing Industry (Remuneration Order) Regulations 1983; and
- (h) the Tea Industry Workers (Remuneration Order) Regulations 1984.

The average increase in wages proposed by the National Remuneration Board is in the range of 6% to 36%.

Cabinet has also taken note that the recommendations of the National Remuneration Board in respect of the EPZ Sector would be implemented in 6 months' time.

5. Cabinet has taken note that, following the launching in March 2016 of the Air Corridor between Africa and Asia/South East Asia using Mauritius and Changi Airport as hubs, there has been an increase in total traffic during the period April to July 2016, as compared to the same period in 2015, with three direct flights to Singapore. The performance of Air Mauritius Ltd on the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur route has also shown a marked improvement with a rise in the load factor from 64.35% to 74.95%, representing an increase of 3,430 passengers. The Mauritius-Singapore Air Corridor concept is based on the use of Mauritius and Singapore as hubs with a view to promoting origin and destination traffic flows between Africa and Asia/South East Asia. In order to further develop the Air Corridor, a delegation comprising senior officials and representatives of Air Mauritius will participate in a Strategic Workshop on the Air Corridor that would be organised by the Changi Airport Group Promotion in September 2016 to explore and agree on ways and means to do so.

6. Cabinet has taken note that following the recent cases of poisoning by carbon monoxide, the following measures are being taken to sensitize the public on the use of gas water heaters and other household appliances using liquefied petroleum gas –

- (a) aggressive campaigns on the installation and use of gas water heaters have been organized jointly by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services; and
- (b) new regulations would be made under the Inflammable Liquids and Substances Act 1952 to provide for -
 - (i) gas water heaters imported to be equipped with a carbon monoxide detector and an alarm system;
 - (ii) gas water heaters to be installed outside the house; and
 - (iii) customers to be informed of the safe use, maintenance and servicing of the equipment.

A hot line 154 is available to report any hazard and put up requests for assistance at the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services.

7. Cabinet has taken note of development in the implementation of the National Road Network Project. In the first phase of the Project, the Phoenix-Jumbo-Dowlut roundabouts and the A1M1 Bridge linking Coromandel to Soreze would be implemented as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017. The responsibility for the technical design, the preparation of bidding documents, supervision and project management would be entrusted to the Korean Expressway Corporation under a Government-to-Government Agreement. It is expected that construction works would start by the beginning of 2017.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms would make regulations under the Financial Services Act to bring '*Funeral Grant Schemes*' under the purview of the Financial Services Commission (FSC), in line with its mandate to take measures for the better protection of consumers of financial services. The classification of funeral scheme management as a financial business activity would allow the Commission to have an overview on the management of the monies being collected from the public by funeral scheme managers.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth and Sports would set up an association, which would be responsible for the timely implementation of all infrastructural projects in connection with the Indian Ocean Islands Games (IOIG) 2019. Major upgrading and renovation works would be carried out to all sports infrastructure that would be used during the Games, and a new multi-sports complex and a swimming pool would also be constructed.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the National Commission for UNESCO of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, would on 7 and 8 September 2016 hold the National Consultation for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) – Education. The main objectives of the Consultation are to work upon and move forward the process for East Africa at national and regional levels with the objectives of building a common understanding of SDG4, and ensuring a sound foundation for its translation into national education system policies and plans, as well as its implementation supported by partners.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the World Health Organization (WHO) would organise the Global Dialogue Meeting on “*The role of non-State actors in supporting Member States in their national efforts to tackle Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” in Mauritius in October 2016. The Global Dialogue Meeting would be preceded by the African Regional NCD Alliance/Network Meeting. The objectives of the Global Dialogue Meeting will be to, *inter alia*, discuss the specific findings and recommendations of the final Report of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCD, which were presented to the WHO Director General in April 2016, and share information on the related challenges, opportunities and experiences. Some 200 participants would attend the Global Dialogue Meeting.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Ethiopia where he participated in the 66th Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Africa. The issues discussed at the Meeting included the Regional Strategy for Health Security and Emergencies, Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, International Health Regulations and the African Public Health Emergency Fund. The Minister of Health and Quality of Life also participated in various side events that were organised in the margins of the Meeting by the Global Vaccine Alliance and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, a global platform for coordinated action against Malaria.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Public Officers’ Welfare Council with Mr Philippe Jean Bruneau, PDSM, as Chairperson.
