

## CABINET DECISIONS – 19 FEBRUARY 2016

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Acting Prime Minister chaired a meeting on the payment of royalties to local artists, and noted that the Rights Management Society would effect a first distribution of royalties to artists in April 2016. The second distribution would be effected in June 2016. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has provided an advance of Rs2m to enable the Society to purchase, *inter alia*, appropriate equipment, and to update the royalty distribution software. The management of the Society will also be reviewed.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministerial Committee set up to look into the recommendations of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, chaired by the Acting Prime Minister, examined the measures that could be quickly implemented, and among others, decided that all reported cases of Domestic Violence would be treated as an aggravated offence. The enabling legislation would be amended in due course.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that households earning a monthly income of up to Rs20,000 would, henceforth, be eligible for a social housing unit. The broadening of the scheme is in line with the objectives of Government to cater for the housing needs of low and middle income families. Subsidy on the cost of housing units will be as follows –

<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Subsidy</b>
Rs 6,200 - Rs 10,000	66.67%
Rs 10,001- Rs 15,000	50%
Rs 15,001- Rs 20,000	20%

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands issuing a new Planning Policy Guidance on Development on Sloping Sites and Landslide Hazard Areas to local authorities for better controlling development on steep slopes. The Planning Policy Guidance is in line with approved universal benchmarks and best practices.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the Sports Act 2013 being repealed, and a new Sports Bill introduced in the National Assembly shortly. The main objectives of the new Bill would be, *inter alia*, to -

- (a) eliminate existing duplication of procedures with the Registration of Associations Act;
- (b) address the issue of conflict of interest, and reinforce the concept of good governance;
- (c) review the modalities for the election of members of the Managing Committees of the National Sports Federations; and
- (d) review the provision regarding the National Commission for Drug-Free Sports to be in conformity with the World Anti-Doping Agency rules.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, would renew the “*Convention-Cadre de Coopération Educative*” signed with “*l’Académie de La Réunion*”, “*l’Université de La Réunion*” and the French Embassy in Mauritius. The “*Convention-Cadre*” provides for, *inter alia*, -

- (a) technical and vocational education and training at both secondary and post-secondary levels;
- (b) ICT and digitization in education;
- (c) quality assurance from pre-primary to secondary education level;
- (d) teaching/learning of French language in a bilingual context; and
- (e) tertiary education and research.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands is revisiting the management of the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy to make it more responsive to the needs of potential trainees. In that context, a new post of Head is being created to head, drive and coordinate the activities of the Academy in a more holistic and integrated manner. It is expected that some 18,000 jobs in the Ocean Economy Sector would be created in the cruise/maritime sector by 2030 as announced by the Prime Minister in his Vision 2030.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities would promulgate the Energy Efficiency (Registration of Energy Auditors) Regulations to provide, *inter alia*, for -

- (a) the “energy auditor” also including an energy audit firm;
- (b) the procedure for application for registration and the issue of a certificate of registration by the Energy Efficiency Management Office; and
- (c) the validity of the certificate of registration being for a period of two years and renewable for a further period of two years.

The regulations would be effective as from 1 March 2016.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Energy Efficiency Management Office is conducting training courses for 60 prospective energy auditors with a view to creating a pool of certified auditors who would carry out audit in the public, as well as the private sector.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that Government proposes to contract a new budget support loan from the World Bank Group under the Accelerated Programme for Economic Integration aiming to support the regional reform. The Programme is an initiative of five 'like-minded' countries, comprising Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia, to jointly accelerate the implementation of reforms aimed at reducing barriers to trade. Under the first operation of the loan programme, Mauritius, Seychelles and Mozambique have agreed to a set of indicators to accelerate regional integration, with focus on –

- (a) removing barriers to trade in goods;
- (b) promoting trade in services; and
- (c) enhancing measures to facilitate trade.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Youth and Sports participated in –

- (a) the 2016 UN Economic and Social Council Youth Forum held in New York. The theme for the Forum was "*Youth Taking Action to Implement the 2030 Agenda*". The Forum served as a platform for young people to engage in dialogue with Member States and contribute to policy formulation on global economic, social and environmental issues; and
- (b) the World Judo Tour, "*Le Grand Slam Paris 2016*", held in Paris. The Tournament was a high level international competition which involved the participation of 281 World Class Judokas.

In Paris, the Minister of Youth and Sports also had a meeting with the President of International Judo Federation on the development of Judo in Mauritius. It has, *inter alia*, been agreed that the International Judo Federation would use Mauritius as a platform to promote Judo in Africa. The Federation would also consider the setting up of an International Judo Centre, and an Academy, and organizing a "*Grand Prix of Judo*" in Mauritius in 2017.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life recently visited Rodrigues to review progress/improvement in the health services and address problems reported by the Commissioner of Health and Sports. Following a working session the Minister had with the Commissioner of Health and Sports, it was agreed, among others, that -

- (a) Rodriguan patients would be considered for surgeries performed by renowned visiting surgeons in Mauritius;
- (b) a new X-ray unit would be set up at Mont Lubin Hospital; and
- (c) the staffing of the health sector would be reinforced.

Cabinet has also taken note that a second batch of Rodriguan nurses has completed the Top-Up Diploma Nursing Course.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from the Commonwealth Secretariat, led by Mr Jeff Ardron, Project Leader, Adviser Ocean Governance, is currently in Mauritius to advise the National Ocean Council, among others, on the formulation of a National Ocean Policy Paper, the drafting of a legal framework for the Council and the review of the legal and organizational structure of the Mauritius Maritime Training Academy.

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