

CABINET DECISIONS – 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Heritage City project being revived. A Committee chaired by the Prime Minister would finalise all issues.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the final Report on the examination carried out by nTan Corporate Advisory Pte Ltd on the BAI Group. The Report would be made public.

3. Cabinet has taken note that under the patronage of the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office would drive the implementation of the National Troupe of Mauritius Project that aims at promoting cultural diversity and artistic capacity building as announced in Government Programme 2015-2019 and Budget Speech 2016-2017. A Steering Committee, under the chairmanship of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, has been set up to advise Government and chart the way forward for the setting up of the Troupe. The Mauritius National Troupe would, among others, –

- (a) contribute to the creation of a distinctive Mauritian national identity;
- (b) enable Mauritius to participate in international competitions and cultural exchange programmes; and
- (c) build critical skills in youth by fostering their creative talents.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the University of Mauritius would sign an *Accord-Cadre* with the University of Bordeaux, *Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Bordeaux* and the French Embassy to renew existing arrangements regarding –

- (a) the provision of clinical facilities within hospitals, particularly the SSR National Hospital, for the clinical training of undergraduate medical students following courses at the University of Mauritius;
- (b) doctors in different specialities being authorised to act as *Maîtres de Stage*; and
- (c) the provision of pre-registration training to doctors in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Council Act.

5. Cabinet has agreed to Deeds of Concession being signed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Ferme Marine de Mahebourg Limited, in line with the provisions of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, for the operation of fish farms at Pointe Bambous and Jonchée Bar in the lagoon of Vieux Grand Port. The Project, the first of its type, consists of the rearing of fish eggs or fry in a hatchery located at Pointe aux Feuilles, and transferring the juvenile fishes from the hatchery to floating cage structures located in the authorized concession areas for fattening.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 94,920 tourists visited Mauritius in August 2016 as compared to 89,422 in August 2015, i.e., an increase of 6.1%. For the period January to August 2016, tourist arrivals reached 789,296 as compared to 718,897 during the same period, in 2015. Growth has been registered in arrivals from Germany (+36.4%), UK (+11.6%), India (+43.9%), France (+5.2%) and Italy (+4.4%).

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to mark the World Suicide Prevention Day, which is observed on 10 September. The theme for this year is "**Connect. Communicate. Care.**". An official ceremony would be held at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis. Sensitization campaigns would be held around the country, an information poster launched, and pamphlets distributed.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to the Republic of Senegal and the United Kingdom. The main objectives of his mission to Senegal were to –

- (a) look into possible avenues of collaboration in the Tourism Sector;
- (b) seek the assistance of Senegal for the setting up of a slavery museum in Port Louis; and
- (c) attract investors from Mauritius with the coming into operation of the Special Economic Zone in Diamniadio in partnership with the Government of Senegal.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications met, inter alia, –

- (a) HE Mr Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, with whom he discussed, among others, avenues of cooperation in the fields of tourism, air transport, investment and economic development, and explored the possibility of reinforcing existing relations, particularly the renewal of the ancestral relationships and heritage; and

- (b) Mr Mbagnick Ndiaye, Minister of Culture and Communications, who agreed to provide expertise in African Museology in the setting up of the Slavery Museum and publication in African Culture and Literature.

In the UK, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications met the public relations and travel agencies to discuss current tourism trends, particularly in the light of Brexit and the participation in the World Travel Market to be held in London in November 2016.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Singapore where he participated in the 2nd Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visit and the 4th Africa Singapore Business Forum. The Exchange Visit, under the theme *Singapore and Africa: Partnering for Sustainable Development* provided an opportunity to exchange views with Singaporean Ministers on the challenges of sustainable development, and share experiences in dealing with urban solutions, water management and skills development.

In the margins of the Visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade also had meetings with, among others, -

- (a) Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, FRCS, Minister of Foreign Affairs on the challenges faced by the two countries as small island countries and the setting up of a Joint Commission Mechanism; and
- (b) Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, on the setting up of a Joint Commission between the two countries.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Zambia where she participated in the 9th Meeting of the COMESA Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs. The Meeting of Ministers took note of progress in the implementation of the programmes of COMESA and considered, among others, -

- (a) the establishment of a multi-sectoral gender coordination mechanism to strengthen gender management systems and accountability mechanisms;
- (b) engaging the National Statistical Offices to review national data collection instruments, analysis mechanisms and processes to ensure availability and use of sex and age disaggregated and analytical data in core economic sectors; and
- (c) submission of annual reports on the implementation of the COMESA Youth Programme.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the African Ministerial Conference on Ocean Economy and Climate Change held in Mauritius on 1 and 2 September 2016. The Conference adopted the "*Communiqué de Maurice*". The Conference decided, among others, that an investment package be designed in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the FAO and the Kingdom of Morocco for submission at COP 22, and projects presented during the Conference be submitted to the Green Climate Fund for funding. The World Bank proposed to increase its pool of existing fund from USD700m to USD1,4 billion through leverage from bilateral and multilateral donors.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has communicated the "*Communiqué de Maurice*" to HE Mrs Ségolène Royal, *Ministre de l'environnement, de l'énergie et de la mer* and current Chairperson of COP 21, and HE Mr Salaheddine Mezouar, *Ministre des affaires étrangères et de la coopération* of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairperson of COP 22.
