

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 NOVEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Limited Liability Partnerships Bill in the National Assembly. With a view to further developing Mauritius as a financial centre of global standing, the limited liability partnership would be a new vehicle to conduct business. A Limited Liability Partnership is a body corporate which is formed by registration and has a legal personality separate from that of its partners, whereby partners have limited liability. The Bill provides for the registration and administration of limited liability partnerships, where each partner -

- (a) is only liable up to the amount he has contributed;
- (b) is not liable for the actions of the other partners but is accountable for his own wrongful act or omission; and
- (c) has a role in the decision-making process of the business and in distributions in accordance with the partnership agreement.

The legislation will encourage accountants, lawyers, consultants and other professionals to set up Limited Liability Partnerships and create more opportunities to harness the various advantages of partnerships.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Water Tank Grant Scheme. For the Financial Year 2016-2017, some 3,329 applications have been approved. Under the Scheme, low income families are provided a grant for the purchase of a water tank, subject to certain conditions. The Central Water Authority is carrying out a campaign in areas affected by severe water cuts, and distributing application forms to interested households.

Cabinet has further taken note that households, who are in financial hardship and registered in the Social Register of Mauritius, would not be required to swear an affidavit to declare their income.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, under the Investment Promotion (Smart City Scheme) Regulations 2015, the Board of Investment has issued Letters of Intent to -

- (a) the Moka City Ltd for the development of 2,287 residential units, commercial and office spaces, a civic centre, education and student accommodation, sports facilities, health and medical services, a business incubator and a bus terminus at Moka. Some 3,500 direct jobs and 5,000 indirect jobs would be created; and
- (b) the Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone Co. Ltd and its subsidiary, Silkroad International Investment Company Ltd, for the development of a wedding theme square, a business hotel, educational and training facilities, a commercial district, a manufacturing zone, an international convention centre, residential units and related amenities at Riche Terre. Some 1,600 jobs would be created.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make regulations under the Medical Council Act to include the following medical institutions in the recognised list of medical institutions of the Council for the purpose of registration -

- (a) Anhui Medical University of the People's Republic of China;
- (b) Voronezh State Medical University named after N. N. Burdenko, Russia; and
- (c) Horbachevsky Ternopil State Medical University of the Ukrainian SSR.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the *Service Diocésain de l'Education Catholique* (formerly known as the *Bureau de l'Education Catholique*) would take over the schools of *L'Association de Parents d'Enfants Inadaptés de l'Ile Maurice* (APEIM) that provided education to Special Education Needs children.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade signing a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the Republic of Tanzania. The Agreement provides for better coordination in the promotion of trade and commercial transactions and the establishment of a Joint Trade Committee to discuss cooperation in key sectors, such as Investment, Fisheries and Sugar. Tanzania represents an interesting market with a population of 47.6 million inhabitants. The Agreement would be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Hon Dr Charles John Mwijage, Minister for Industry and Trade, and the Hon Dr Charles Tizeba, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Tanzania.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the General Agreement of Cooperation signed between Mauritius and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September 2015. The Agreement establishes a framework agreement between Mauritius and Saudi Arabia, under which specific cooperation instruments in sectors of mutual interests, such as economic, trade and investment cooperation, education and scientific research, culture, sports and youth development, audio-visual and media production, and tourism, would be conducted.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the Province of New-Brunswick, Canada, would sign a "*Protocole d'entente*" on cooperation in the field of education, covering, among others, development in the early childhood, capacity building, and pedagogical innovation.

9. Cabinet has taken note of concerns expressed by some trade union leaders and members of the civil society regarding the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA). The Agreement provides for the right of each Party to regulate and introduce new regulations on the supply of services to meet its national policy objectives. TiSA also provides for services that fall under the authority of Government to be excluded from the Agreement. Mauritius has, in its draft market access offer, indicated that -

"Mauritius reserves the right to adopt or maintain any measures with respect to all services established for a public purpose, including but not limited to the following –

- *Public Health*
- *Public Education*
- *Public Housing*
- *Public Transport*
- *Public Utilities*
- *Public Postal Services*
- *Social Security*
- *Public Safety (Public law enforcement)*
- *Distribution of energy related products"*

All commitments taken by Mauritius in the negotiations are in accordance with the existing regulatory framework and have not opened up the Services Sector beyond what already exists. For the sake of transparency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade would shortly table a document on the Agreement in the National Assembly. The document would, thereafter, be uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, and a focal point has been set up at the International Trade Division of that Ministry to provide information on the Agreement.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Sport with the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the State of Qatar. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, among others, for the exchange of visits by sports delegations, coaches, experts, and specialists in sports and its applied sciences, and cooperation on the development of the Sports Sector, including sports for persons with special needs, sports medicine, doping control.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the week from 14 to 20 November has been designated as the World Antibiotic Awareness Week. The aim of the week is to increase awareness of antibiotic resistance and encourage best practices among the general public, including health workers and policy makers, to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. The theme for this year is "**Antibiotics: Handle with Care**". In this context, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise a workshop and mount sensitisation campaigns on antibiotics and antibiotics resistance.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the International Volunteer Day would be commemorated on 5 December. The theme for this year is "**Global Applause – Give volunteers a hand**". In this context, and to recognize the voluntary engagement of volunteers, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions would, among others, award certificates to volunteers who have followed training courses in First Aid, Effective Communication and Social Leadership and launch the training programme on National Certificate in Social Work Practice Level 2/Recognition of Prior Learning in Social Work Practice Level 2.

13. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, commemorated on 3 December, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions would organise a cultural programme to showcase the artistic talents of Persons with Disabilities, award certificates to the 'Best Employer' and 'Best Employee' of the year to reward employers who have significantly contributed to the employment of persons with disabilities and employees with disabilities who have created an impact in their line of work. The theme for this year is "**Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want**".

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees of La Clinique Mauricienne for the year 2017.
