

**CABINET DECISIONS – 25 NOVEMBER 2016**

1. Cabinet has agreed to a revised Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Amendment) Bill being referred to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The new Bill would provide for amendments to the electoral system in Rodrigues, and not include provisions pertaining to the double candidature of the leader of a registered party, and anti-defection measures.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Police (Membership of Trade Union) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to allow members of the Police Force to unionise. Any member of the Mauritius Police Force will, subsequently, have the right to form part of a trade union or association of employees having as object the control or influence of the pay, pensions, or conditions of service of police officers.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill and the Constitution (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill is to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act to provide for the reinforcement of the legal framework against terrorism. The object of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill is to amend the Constitution to provide for the imposition of restrictions on the movement within Mauritius, and the right of any person to leave Mauritius, pursuant to an order of a Court or a Judge of the Supreme Court under such law, being a law relating to offences or acts of terrorism.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Social Integration and Empowerment Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to promote social integration and empowerment of persons living in absolute poverty within the philosophy of enhancing social justice and national unity. The Bill provides for the setting up of such empowerment programmes or schemes as may be necessary to -

- (a) combat absolute poverty;
- (b) provide support and other services to persons living in absolute poverty;  
and
- (c) support persons living in absolute poverty to integrate the mainstream society.

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5. Cabinet has agreed to the issue of work permits for the importation of foreign labour in the Construction Sector being severely restricted with a view to promoting the employment of local labour.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, in collaboration with the ILO, would hold an Asbestos Awareness Training Programme for Tripartite Constituents from 5 to 7 December 2016. The objective of the programme is to sensitise tripartite stakeholders on asbestos, its uses, hazards and how to manage asbestos at the workplace. Participants would also have an overview of the Occupational Safety and Health (Control of Asbestos at Work) Regulations 2014.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that, during the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, 4,937 vacancies in the public service have been filled. Funds have been provided in the 2016-2017 Budget for the filling of a total of 12,728 vacancies, i.e. 7,142 recruitments and 5,586 promotional.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that the World AIDS Day 2016 would be commemorated on 1 December. The theme chosen by UNAIDS this year is “**HANDS UP FOR #HIVPREVENTION**”. In this context, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise -

- (a) an HIV Testing Day to allow a maximum number of persons to have access to voluntary counselling and testing services;
- (b) HIV screening programmes around the country; and
- (c) sensitisation campaign on HIV and AIDS.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has decentralised its services with a view to providing better care and treatment to persons living with HIV. Eight Day Care Centres are operational at Volcy Pougnet Community Health Centre, Victoria, SSRN, J. Nehru, Flacq, Souillac and Mahebourg Hospitals, and at Dr Yves Cantin Community Hospital.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Paris where he participated in the “*Journées Afrique, Développement et Numérique*”. Participating States presented their strategies for the digital economy, and it was agreed to set up a French-African Alliance for Digital Development to promote digital technology in developing countries.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation had bilateral meetings, among others, with Ms Charlotte Duda, Human Resource Director, Convergys Corporation, a company which would shortly start operation in Mauritius. The company would recruit some 200 employees by January 2017.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands to the Kingdom of Morocco where he participated in the Oceans Action Day and the African Session on “*Solution and Dialogue for Ocean Economy in Africa*” held in the margins of the COP 22. The Meeting provided a platform to address key issues on climate change and the sustainable development of the Ocean Economy. Participants were informed of the Blue Belt initiative developed by Morocco, that aims at building resilience of coastal communities and promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, in line with the SDG 14 requirements.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management to the Kingdom of Morocco where he participated in the 22nd Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The main objective of COP 22 was to focus on issues relating to the rules for the implementation of the Paris Agreement which came in force on 4 November 2016, and the pre-2020 actions in line with existing commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

In the margins of COP 22, the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management had bilateral meetings with –

- (a) Dr (Ms) Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility regarding the implementation of an integrated ecosystem conservation and management of the lagoon and the sea; and
- (b) HE Mr Xie Zhenhua, Minister of State Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China, on cooperation in capacity building for climate change and sustainable development.

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