

CABINET DECISIONS – 9 DECEMBER 2016

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Additional Remuneration (2017) Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill provides for the payment of an additional remuneration to employees of the private sector with effect from 1 January 2017, as follows -

Full-Time Employees

Monthly Basic Wage or Salary	Additional Remuneration per Month
Up to 15,000 rupees	200 rupees
Above 15,000 rupees up to 50,000 rupees	125 rupees

Part-Time Employees

Monthly Basic Wage or Salary	Additional Remuneration per Month
Up to 15,000 rupees	2 per cent rounded up to the next rupee, subject to a maximum of 200 rupees
Above 15,000 rupees up to 50,000 rupees	125 rupees

2. Cabinet has agreed to the merger of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, as announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017, and on account of technological convergence in the ICT and the broadcasting spaces. Following the merger, a new regulator would be set up with a new identity and new responsibilities.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Construction Industry Development Board (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Construction Industry Development Board Act in order to streamline certain procedures, give new definitions of terms, and provide special consideration for foreign consultants and contractors operating in Mauritius for a certain number of years.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Non-Citizens (Property Restriction) (Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Non-Citizens (Property Restriction) Act -

- (a) so as to allow any non-citizen to purchase or acquire residential apartments in a building of at least 2 floors above ground floor, on production of an authorisation from the Board of Investment granted after it has obtained the approval of the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of internal affairs is assigned; and
- (b) to provide that the requirement for a non-citizen purchasing or acquiring immovable property for business purposes to be registered as an investor will no longer be required, subject to an authorisation from the Board of Investment granted after it has obtained the approval of the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of internal affairs is assigned.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Human Tissue (Removal, Preservation and Transplant) Act being amended to provide for the donation of organs by persons other than the next of kin, and to resort to cadaveric organ transplantation for the purpose of saving lives. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life had organised consultative workshops where consensus had been reached on the matter.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport would make the Professional Architects' Council (Code of Practice) Regulations to prescribe the Code of Practice for professional architects. The Code of Practice provides for the general obligations of the professional architect and his obligations to the public, client, profession and colleagues.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities would make the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Regulated Machinery) Regulations to provide for mandatory labelling of domestic appliances, namely electric ovens, refrigerators and dishwashers. The label, also known as energy label, rates an appliance from dark green (most efficient) to red (least efficient) and shows the annual energy consumption of the appliance. The regulations provide, among others, that –

- (a) the labels should be in accordance with the standards developed by the Mauritius Standards Bureau;
- (b) the dealer should submit a test report or product certificate to the Mauritius Standards Bureau for verification; and
- (c) the Energy Efficiency Management Office would issue a certificate of compliance that would be valid for a period of two years.

The regulations would be effective as from 1 July 2017.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to lead a Task Force with a view to making the necessary arrangements so that Thaipooam Cavadee and Maha Shivaratree festivals in 2017 are celebrated in the best possible conditions.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications, 115,782 tourists visited Mauritius in November 2016 as compared to 106,204 in November 2015, i.e., an increase of 9%. For the period January to November 2016, tourist arrivals reached 1,127,093 as compared to 1,018,571 during the same period in 2015. Growth had been registered in arrivals from Germany (+35.7%), Italy (+6.9%), France (+3.5%), United Kingdom (+3%), India (+8.5%), Reunion Island (+9.1%), Poland (+68.6%), Czech Republic (+35.3%), Sweden (+30.5%) and Switzerland (+23.3%).

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the Human Rights Day 2016, observed on 10 December, namely –

- (a) a Consultative Workshop on the Mauritius Draft Periodic Reports on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- (b) a Training Workshop for members of the Standing Technical Inter-Ministerial Committee, set up for the monitoring and follow-up on UN human rights reports; and
- (c) a meeting of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee to assess progress made in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020.

The theme for this year is “**Stand up for someone’s rights today!**”.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Reunion Island where he attended the meeting of the ‘*Comité de Pilotage – Convention Cadre de Partenariat 2013-2016 entre le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de la Réunion et le Ministère de la Santé et de la Qualité de la Vie de Maurice*’. The issues discussed include –

- (a) avenues for collaboration and research in the field of diabetes;
- (b) collaboration with the *Centre Hospitalier Universitaire* in the fields of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Paediatric Surgery, and in the area of Medical Waste Management and Incineration; and
- (c) training of Hospital Managers.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General to France where he attended the Octopus Conference on Cybercrime and the Special Session on the 15th Anniversary of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. Mauritius that had been chosen to be one of the priority countries for the Glacy (Global action on Cybercrime) project, has successfully implemented the project. There is currently a single point of reporting of cybercrime offences and all statistical information on cybercrime offences are collected, integrated and analysed by Statistics Mauritius. Moreover, standard operating procedures are in place for the investigation of cybercrimes and the collection, and handling of electronic evidence. Mauritius has been chosen by the Council of Europe to be the African hub for regional training in cybercrime.
