

CABINET DECISIONS – 06 JANUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Brussels where he attended the 19th Meeting of the ACP Ministerial Trade Committee and the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee. Among the main issues discussed at the Meetings were –

- (a) the continued negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU;
- (b) the Impact of Brexit on ACP countries;
- (c) the Post-Cotonou Partnership negotiations; and
- (d) WTO issues.

In the margins of the Meetings, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had bilateral working sessions, among others, with –

- (a) HE Dr Patrick Ignatius Gomes, Secretary General of the ACP, to whom he expressed the appreciation of Mauritius for the adoption of the decision on the Chagos Archipelago by the ACP Council of Ministers in November 2016, and with whom he discussed Intra-ACP Cooperation, in particular, South-South and Triangular Cooperation; and
- (b) Mr Stefaan Depypere, Director, International Affairs and Markets, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) on the renewal of the Protocol to the Mauritius-EU Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and Artemis Medicare Services Limited, India propose to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the following areas –

- (a) capacity building of healthcare professionals (primarily for Neuro-intervention Surgery, Neurosurgery, Transplantation, Bone marrow transplants), Paediatric Surgery and Cardiac Electrophysiology;
- (b) training of medical and paramedical staff; and
- (c) referral of patients.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the appointment of a Migration Service Provider to offer pre-departure security screening and health screening, and to ensure compliance with recruitment standards by Recruiting Agencies from all labour sending countries with a view to curtailing abuses targeting migrant workers. The Migration Service Provider would also identify and appoint Recruiting Agents with a proven track record and a minimum of 10 years' experience of supplying workers, and monitor recruitment practices through an ongoing audit to ensure compliance with recruitment standards. The Service Provider should itself have a proven record of having 10 years' experience and be operating in at least 10 countries.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the adoption of General Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescription by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The Guidelines are intended to provide guidance in the proper and judicious use of antibiotic therapy, and ensure that antimicrobials are used effectively to treat infections and minimize the spread of resistant organisms. Antimicrobial resistance threatens the effectiveness of successful treatment of infection and is a public health issue. The Guidelines are expected to prevent or reduce abuse in prescribing antibiotics by medical professionals, and will be disseminated to public hospitals, private health institutions, and private medical practitioners. A Monitoring Mechanism has also been set up to ensure compliance with the Guidelines.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has released funds to the tune of Rs26m for the purchase of equipment, and renovation of an Office Block in connection with the implementation of the Airstrip and the Jetty Construction Projects in Agalega.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Council of the National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Foundation with Mr Medavy Pillay Munien as Chairperson. Mr Munien holds a M.Ed Leadership and is currently Project Manager for ZEP schools in the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities which will be organised to mark the 182nd Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in Mauritius on 1 February 2017, namely –

- (a) the Official Programme at Le Morne Public Beach, comprising, *inter alia*, a Wreath Laying Ceremony, the clapping of the film “*Resistance Marron*”, presentation of prizes to the best CPE students 2016 of Le Morne Government School, and a cultural programme; and
- (b) a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the *Monument des Esclaves*, Pointe Canon, Mahebourg.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities which will be organised on the occasion of the celebration of the Spring Festival at national level, namely -

- (a) cultural shows by a Cultural Troupe from Henan, China;
- (b) a cultural programme, with the participation of the Cultural Troupe from Henan and local artists on 27 January 2017 at Port Louis Waterfront. The programme will be preceded by a *defilé* comprising Chinese Dragon and Lion Dance Groups, martial arts demonstration and other artistic groups; and
- (c) a cultural show on the occasion of the Lantern Festival.
