

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 FEBRUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Metro Express Project, and that the contract for the Supervision Tasks to be performed during Construction Stage would be awarded to RITES Limited, a Government of India Enterprise. The Metro Express Project would be partly funded by the Government of India through a grant assistance for an amount of US\$275 million (equivalent to approximately MUR9.9 billion).

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministerial Committee on Electoral Reform has been reconstituted with the Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues, as Chairperson. The Committee would comprise –

- (a) the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities;
- (b) the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation;
- (c) the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport;
- (d) the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research;
- (e) the Minister of Tourism;
- (f) the Minister of Arts and Culture;
- (g) the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development;
- (h) the Attorney General;
- (i) the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment;
- (j) the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare; and
- (k) the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection has taken various measures to boost export, namely –

- (a) the Ministry, in collaboration with Enterprise Mauritius, is facilitating and expanding exports to several countries, including emerging markets;
- (b) a workshop would be organised to sensitise some 100 jewellery manufacturers on institutional support services and existing Schemes;
- (c) a Pharmaceutical Village would be set up at Rose Belle Business Park;
- (d) a national e-commerce platform is being developed to facilitate connection with international buyers; and

- (e) the Speed-to-Market Scheme, formerly known as the Air freight Rebate Scheme, would be applicable to exports effected as from 1 April 2017. The Scheme aims at giving a boost to textile and apparel export to European countries and enhancing product delivery.

Cabinet has set up a Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to look into the challenges pertaining to the Export Sector and make recommendations for its future development.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives would carry out a survey to collect information from Cooperative Societies registered in the Sugar Cane Sector on the area of land still under cane cultivation in the wake of the setting up of the Agricultural Land Management System, and in order to update the database on the cooperative societies. The main objective of the Agricultural Land Management System is to ensure that unutilised and abandoned cane lands are brought to productive use.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the Report on the Restructure of the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) prepared by BDO & Co. The restructure of the Foundation was enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019 and announced in Budget Speech 2016-2017. The main proposals are –

- (a) a new organisational structure to be headed by a General Manager, supported by Managers at technical level;
- (b) strengthening of the “empowerment” function of the current social protection programmes with the NEF handholding, mentoring, monitoring and supporting beneficiaries;
- (c) strengthening of the institutional capacity for social protection delivery;
- (d) the NEF to reinvent itself in terms of communication, networking, collaboration, partnering, needs identification, programme design, and implementation efficiency; and
- (e) the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor the adherence of the beneficiaries to the Marshall Plan Social Contract.

6. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made to rehabilitate La Ferme Dam which is more than 100 years old, and cracks have been noticed in its structure. The squatters living downstream of the Dam would be relocated at Beaux Songes, and the private households would be compensated.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make the Dental Council (Continuing Professional Development) (Amendment) Regulations to provide for the grant of an exemption from the necessity of acquiring the Continuing Professional Development points by Dentists/Dental Specialists in 2016, as in the case for Medical Practitioners/Specialists. The Regulations would take effect from 31 December 2016.
