

CABINET DECISIONS – 20 JANUARY 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Standards Bureau (Certification Mark) Regulations being amended to incorporate a mark for eco-label of products under the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) Certification Mark Scheme. The MSB, that operates the Scheme, grants licences to companies to use MSB Certification Mark for products and processes which meet all requirements of the Mauritian Standard. The integration of the eco-label in the MSB Certification Mark Scheme would enable the MSB to certify organisations that embrace sustainable practices in the manufacture of products and the provision of services according to the applicable eco-label standard.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms making the Financial Reporting Council (Rotation of Audit Firm) Regulations under the provision of the Financial Reporting Act 2004 to provide for transitional provisions where listed companies would be required to rotate audit firms that have served for a continuous period of seven years, as enunciated in Budget Speech 2016/2017. The proposed regulations also provide that in the case of joint audits, the audit firm rotation policy will not be applicable as the intended purpose of achieving more independence of auditors will already be met by joint audits.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the 27th Airport Council International (ACI) Africa/World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition will be held in Mauritius in October 2017. The ACI Africa/World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition is one of the most prestigious events of the Global Airport Sector, where renowned professionals and industry leaders in the fields of Airport Management, Civil Aviation and Air Travel, share the latest best international practices and trends. The Exhibition brings together international suppliers of airport and aviation technologies, as well as other service providers, to showcase their latest products and services. The annual ACI Airport Service Quality Awards will also be held during the Conference to reward airports which have excelled in terms of passenger service delivery during the year 2016.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the Data Protection Day, commemorated on 28 January, the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation would organise a Workshop on 30 January 2017, when experts would provide prescriptive and actionable advice to participants. On the occasion, two guides, namely, the “*Fundamentals on Data Protection - A Resource for Teachers*” and the “*Data Protection for Secondary Education*” would be launched by the Data Protection Office of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Natural History Museum situated at La Chaussée, Port Louis, would be closed for a period of 18 months as from 24 January 2017 for renovation works. Appropriate arrangements have been made for the preservation of the exhibits of the Museum.

6. Cabinet has taken note that out of a total of 15,455 school candidates who sat for the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations in 2016, 11,129 have passed, representing a pass rate of 72.01%. The pass rate in Rodrigues is 73.88%.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister would promulgate the Port (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations to review the conditions for the levy of fees for marine services provided by the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA), and provide new incentives to vessels calling at outer port for operations with the view to leveraging more traffic to the Port. The new regulations would give Port Louis Harbour a new dynamism, enable the MPA to meet the growing expectations of customers/clients, and pave the way of transforming Port Louis into a shipping hub.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Ghana, Mali and Kenya.

In Ghana, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade attended the Inauguration Ceremony of the new President, HE Nana Akufo-Addo, and had a working session with him and the Vice-President of Ghana on bilateral issues.

In Mali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade attended the Africa-France Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Summit considered, among others, conflict situations in Africa, the challenges and threats to international peace, and the essential role of the African Peace and Security Council, the United Nations and the European Union in preventing, managing and settling conflicts in Africa.

In Kenya, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had a meeting with HE Mr O. Kenyatta, President of Kenya, on among others, the setting up of Special Economic Zones.

9. 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 Saudi Arabia where he attended a Meeting convened by the International Maritime Organization to revise the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, known as the Djibouti Code of Conduct. The revised Code covers, *inter alia*, the following transnational organized crimes in the maritime domain –

- (a) trafficking in arms, narcotics and psychotropic substances;
- (b) illegal oil bunkering and crude oil theft;
- (c) human trafficking; and
- (d) illegal dumping of toxic waste.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands met HE Sulaiman Abdullah H. Alhamdan, Minister of Transport of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with whom he discussed the implementation of the new requirements of the revised Code and possibilities of training and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Board of the National Wage Consultative Council with Mr Beejaye Coomar Appanna, OSK, as Chairperson.
