

CABINET DECISIONS – 3 MARCH 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the visit of the Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, to Rodrigues in the context of the pre-budget consultations. He had discussions with the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners who have made a number of proposals, including amendments to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act, and financing of major projects, namely, the Airport project, the Port Development project and the Submarine Fibre Optic Cable project. He also held consultations with key stakeholders. The Prime Minister effected a site visit at Baie aux Huitres in the context of the proposed setting up of an SME Park. He also inaugurated a Community School at Anse Quitor and launched the first Call Centre operated by Call Services Limited.

2. Cabinet has taken note that HE Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, would be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the National Day Celebrations 2017. He would lead a delegation of 22 persons. During his stay, HE Dr Mahamudu Bawumia would, among others, pay courtesy calls on the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister, exchange Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements, and have a Business Meeting organised by the Board of Investment.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, as at 31 December 2016, some 1,198 unemployed youth, degree and non-degree holders, have been placed in the Civil Service and other Government bodies under the Youth Employment Programme. As part of the measures to address youth unemployment, the age limit for the Youth Employment Programme would be extended from 30 years to 35 years, and the duration of the programme would be two years.

Cabinet has also taken note that the age criterion for the Back to Work Programme has been increased to 35 years. The Programme is a placement and training programme for women who wish to join/rejoin the labour force. As at January 2017, 1,261 women were registered under the Programme.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, on 20 February 2017, the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Seychelles had signed a new Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement that defines the annual licence fee to be paid by Purse Seiners, and provides for the continuity of fishing operations.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Board of Examinations of India for the conduct of examinations for the recruitment of Medical and Health Officers/Senior Medical and Health Officers to serve in the Medical Health Service.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the World Consumer Rights Day 2017 observed on 15 March, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection would organise a Workshop on the theme retained for this year - "**Consumer Rights in the digital age**", and mount sensitisation campaigns on consumer rights in relation to digital products and the regulations in place to safeguard the interests of consumers.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to Tanzania where she participated in the Ministerial SDG4 Regional Forum for Eastern Africa. The Forum that was held in the context of the implementation and monitoring of the Education 2030 Agenda, aimed, among others, at -

- (a) sharing national policy challenges and priorities in the light of SDG4 - Education 2030 as identified in the national consultations;
- (b) identifying common emerging areas and themes of particular relevance to the region for further intra-regional collaboration; and
- (c) adopting a Regional Statement to move towards a regional (cooperation) roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of SDG4 in Eastern Africa.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Financial Services Consultative Council with the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms as Chairperson, pursuant to section 12(2) of the Financial Services Act 2007. Besides ex-officio members, the Council comprises 6 persons of high calibre and international repute in the relevant fields.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Mental Health Care Accounts Committee with Mr Edison Narainen as Chairperson;
- (b) the Board of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Board of the Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands as Chairperson.
