

**CABINET DECISIONS – 14 APRIL 2017**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Ms Pramila Patten as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary General.

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2. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the elaboration of a Higher Education Bill as a new legal framework for the development of quality education and research with a view to strengthening Mauritius as a knowledge hub and consolidating the Education Sector as enunciated in Government Programme 2015-2019.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of development in the conduct of -

- (a) Multi-Client Seismic Surveys for hydrocarbon exploration in four selected areas of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritius; and
- (b) Multi-Client Geotechnical Surveys in the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region, jointly managed by Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The Surveys are essential to collect seismic data in order to understand the subsurface geology, and have a better prospection insight of the presence of hydrocarbon.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius contributing US\$15,000 towards emergency relief to communities in Peru who have been affected by torrential rain, flooding, and landslide.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the relocation of the families of Quatre Soeurs, who are affected by severe landslide, to Camp Ithier. Pending the completion of infrastructural works on site, the families would each be provided with rental to enable them to move to a rented accommodation.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee on the Relaunching of the Livestock Sector, that was chaired by the Hon P.K. Jugnauth, Prime Minister. The measures recommended include, -

- (a) consultancy services for the elaboration of a Biosecurity Plan;
- (b) upgrading of Richelieu Quarantine Station to accommodate animals imported for slaughtering;

- (c) setting up of new Quarantine Stations for cattle, pig, and turkey; a heifer and a sheep farm; and a livestock zone;
- (d) relocation of pig breeders to specific regions; and
- (e) setting up of an Animal Health Laboratory in Rodrigues for the conduct of tests to detect diseases.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the proposals contained in the Report on the Restructure of the National Empowerment Foundation prepared by BDO & Co. The recommendations include a new organisational structure, the establishment of a Social Register of Mauritius Map, the implementation of a Code of Good Governance, the development of a Management Information System, the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor the adherence of the beneficiaries to the Marshall Plan Social Contract, and the implementation of a new communication framework to increase awareness amongst beneficiaries on social protection programmes.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that, according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 110,271 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of March 2017 as compared to 108,704 in March 2016, i.e., an increase of 1.4%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from France (+7.6%), Germany (+13.7%), Reunion Island (+8.5%), Poland (+47.6%), Czech Republic (+32.6%), and Austria (+22.7%).

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the National Cooperatives Awards would be launched in mid-May 2017 to promote best practices and good governance in the management and performance of cooperatives. The cooperative societies would be assessed on three aspects, namely leadership, business results, and innovation and creativity. The Awards Ceremony would be held in November 2017.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Employment Relations Tribunal. The President and the Vice-Presidents, who are appointed by the Public Service Commission, are Mr Abdool Rashid Hossen, Mr Indiren Sivaramen and Mr Shameer Jahangeer, respectively.

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