

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 NOVEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Mauritius Institute of Health (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Mauritius Institute of Health Act to review and update the role of the Institute in line with emerging challenges in the area of medical and health training.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Measuring the Information Society Report 2017, published by the International Telecommunication Union, has ranked Mauritius 72nd in the ICT Development Index, as compared to 75th in 2016. Mauritius still ranks 1st in Africa. The annual report presents a global and regional overview of the latest developments regarding Information and Communication Technologies based on internationally comparable data and agreed methodologies.

3. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made for the development of a Master Plan of the Health Services in Rodrigues with a view to improving the provision of health services there.

4. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would ratify the *Accord Révisé portant Création du Fonds de Solidarité Africain*. The main objectives of the Fund are to provide guarantees for loans, and offer financial support by way of interest subsidy, or by facilitating the rescheduling of loans, amongst others, contracted by a Member State.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, commemorated on 25 November, including –

- (a) the launching of an aggressive awareness campaign on the theme “*Elimination of Violence Against Women*”;
- (b) a high level panel discussion on Gender Based Violence in collaboration with the European Union;
- (c) workshops on themes, such as “*Giving Women a Voice*”, and “*Community Response to Domestic Violence*”;
- (d) pre-marital counselling for engaged couples and marriage enrichment programmes for married couples; and
- (e) the launching of the “*Men as Caring Partners*”.

The UN theme for this year is “**Together we can end Gender-Based Violence in Education**”.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare on the occasion of the Universal Children's Day 2017, commemorated on 20 November. The official celebration comprising the following, would be held at the National Women Development Centre, Phoenix –

- (a) showcasing of the services of the Child Development Unit (CDU) and the National Children's Council;
- (b) a counselling corner by the CDU;
- (c) a campaign on drug and substance abuse;
- (d) sensitisation on Internet Safety; and
- (e) sports and artistic activities.

The theme retained by the Ministry is '**Zanfan, l'avenir nou pays**'.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2016. The Yearbook provides information on population trends, family planning and health service points for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues for use particularly by planners and policy makers.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security would make regulations under the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Act to replace the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing (Cess) Regulations 1964 and prescribe the different rates of cess applicable on imported products.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 12th Session of the Mauritius-Seychelles Commission on Bilateral Cooperation held in October 2017. The Meeting took note of development in the Seychelles-Mauritius bilateral relations, and the proposed roadmap for the consolidation of collaboration in different sectors, such as ocean economy, agriculture, fisheries, health, education, connectivity and tourism.

10. 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 France where she participated in the 39th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The commitment to work towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had underpinned the Conference, as UNESCO is the lead agency for SDG 4 pertaining to Education.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism to the UK where he had attended the 38th World Travel Market, a major tourism and travel trade exhibition. The Minister had had a series of meetings with important stakeholders, namely, British Airways, Barceló Viajes, the Thomas Cook Group, the Cable News Network (CNN), and representatives of the travel trade.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to India, where he had meetings, among others, with Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Ayush, and Ms Anupriya Patel, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, with a view to further consolidating cooperation in the field of health.

Following the meetings that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life had with the New Cancer Centre of New Delhi, and the Jupiter Hospital of Mumbai, the latter have agreed to collaborate in raising the standards of our medical and health care services.

13. Cabinet has agreed to the proposal of the *Université de Limoges* to appoint Prof. Mrs Nathalie Bernardie-Tahir as President of the Board of Governors of *l'Université des Mascareignes*. Mrs Bernardie-Tahir had held the post of Vice-President of the *Université de Limoges*.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mrs Khila Kumari Rupa Parboteeah as Chairperson of the Parole Board.
