

CABINET DECISIONS – 1 DECEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Additional Remuneration and Other Allowances (2018) Bill into the National Assembly. The Bill provides for the payment of an additional remuneration to employees of the private sector with effect from 1 January 2018, as follows –

Full-Time Employees

Additional remuneration per month

360 rupees per month

Part-Time Employees

Monthly basic wage or salary

Additional remuneration per month

Up to 10,000 rupees

3.6 per cent rounded up to the next rupee

Above 10,000 rupees

360 rupees

The Bill also provides for the payment of an allowance to certain categories of employees.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Data Protection Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to repeal and replace the Data Protection Act with a view to strengthening control and personal autonomy of data subjects over their personal data, thereby contributing to respect for their human rights, fundamental freedoms, and their right to privacy in line with current relevant international standards, in particular, the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 of the European Union.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Higher Education Bill into the National Assembly. The Bill provides, among others, for the setting up of a Higher Education Commission that shall monitor and oversee the higher education sector, and be responsible for the registration of institutions offering higher education and the accreditation of their programmes.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Modern Urban Terminal Project at Victoria Bus Station.

Cabinet has also taken note that a Request for Proposal would, shortly, be launched for the redevelopment, modernisation and operation of the Immigration Square Urban Terminal at Port Louis. The project would comprise, among others, a modern and aesthetic bus terminal, a dedicated area for hawkers, a business hotel, commercial space, a Police Station, a Fire Station, a taxi stand, and parking facilities.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the elaboration of a National Open Educational Resource Policy with the assistance of the Commonwealth of Learning, in line with the Ljubljana Open Educational Resource Action Plan 2017. The National Open Educational Resource Policy would establish a framework within which –

- (a) educational materials may be shared;
- (b) access to educational resources would be increased; and
- (c) the quality of education would be further enhanced.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports organising a show - *Zenes montré to talan* - in the context of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Mauritius. The main objective of the show is to showcase the talents of participants, aged between 12 and 35, in disciplines grouped in specific categories, namely Music and Song, Dance, Acting and Mime, Sports, and Plastic Arts. The show would start in January 2018 and last for six months.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Petite Rivière Area Health Centre. The estimated cost of the project is Rs46m. Works are expected to start shortly.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the 13th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO being held in Mauritius in December 2018. The core functions of the Intergovernmental Committee are to promote the objectives of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, provide guidance on best practices and make recommendations on measures for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the celebrations of Christmas at national level, the following activities would be organised –

- (a) a cultural programme by the *Centres de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle* (CLAC) of the Ministry of Arts and Culture, at the Serge Constantin Theatre, Vacoas;
- (b) a painting/craft workshop on the theme of '**Christmas**' for the children of CLAC of Mahebourg at the National History Museum;
- (c) a Christmas event for children of Le Morne by Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund;

- (d) the 20th edition of “**Songs for the Season**”, a Christmas and New Year concert, by the *Conservatoire National de Musique François Mitterrand* at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute; and
- (e) the finals of the 12th edition of the Christmas Carol competition together with the enactment of a *tableau vivant* at the Espace Emilien Pierre, Sainte Croix Church, Port Louis.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of an Excellence Award Scheme for the public Medical Health Care Service with a view to developing a new frame of mind; adopting a new culture towards continuous improvement of service; giving proper diagnosis, timely and right treatment; keeping health institutions neat and tidy, as well as promoting a conducive environment for the wellbeing of patients.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of industrial development with the Ministry of Industry and Private Sector Development of the Republic of Madagascar. The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to establish close cooperation and effective collaboration in the industrial sector, facilitate and increase cross-border trade, and promote cross-border investment.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to India where he participated in the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017, organised by the Ministry of Electronics and IT of the Government of India. The Conference is a prestigious global event where international leaders, policymakers, industry experts and think tanks gather to deliberate on issues and challenges for optimally using cyber space.

During his mission, the Minister had meetings, among others, with the Hon Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Cabinet Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology, on areas of cooperation, particularly the setting up of the Mauricloud, a measure announced in Budget Speech 2017/2018, as a platform for the issuance and verification of documents and certificates in a digital way.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Gunness Ramdewar, OSK, SA, as Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Managing Committee of the National Arts Fund with Mr Gaëtan Abel as Chairperson.
