

CABINET DECISIONS –1 SEPTEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Post Ltd ranked first in Africa and 33rd worldwide, out of 170 countries, in the Integrated Index on Postal Development Survey 2016.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research signing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of –

- (a) higher education and scientific research with the Deakin University and the Murdoch University;
- (b) teacher education, nursing, paramedicine, hospitality and tourism with the Edith Cowan University; and
- (c) training and development with the South Metropolitan TAFE of Australia.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the 12th Edition of the *Festival International Kreol* would be held from 17 to 26 November 2017 under the theme '*Kreolite-Linite*'. The *Festival*, an annual event organised in the context of the International Creole Day, aims at showcasing the authenticity of the Creole culture through local music, arts, language and cuisine. The activities that would be organised, include –

- (a) a '*Sware Poezi*' at L'Aventure du Sucre to illustrate the beauty and the richness of the Creole language;
- (b) a conference with international and local speakers on the theme '*Kreolite-Linite*';
- (c) a concert '*Sega Lontan*' at Petite Rivière with the participation of local sega pioneers to revive the traditional sega;
- (d) a culinary exhibition and regatta competition at Mahebourg Waterfront;
- (e) an artistic exhibition at the Central Market of Port Louis;
- (f) a '*Sware Tipik*' at Le Morne Public Beach; and
- (g) a '*Sware Konser*' on 25 November 2017 from 18 00 hours to midnight at Mont Choisy Public Beach, Flacq Centre, Bambous Stadium and Port Louis.

4. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius becoming a member of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise. The Forum facilitates the sharing of best practices and expertise on cyber capacity building, identifies gap, and contributes to mobile resources in partnership with and according to the particular needs of interested countries.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The main objective of the Convention is to protect human health and the environment from man-made emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds. The Convention also provides for the phasing out of certain mercury-added products by 2020, and promotes the use of alternatives.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the Agreement on the regulation of manpower employment in the State of Qatar signed in 2014. The Agreement contains details of the procedures to be followed by both countries, and the terms and conditions of employment with a view to offering safe and well-managed employment opportunities to Mauritian manpower in the State of Qatar.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would promulgate the Food (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, under the Food Act, to include Steviol glycosides as a permitted sweetening substance, and provide for Xanthan gum, a permitted food conditioner and thickener, to be used in a broader list of food categories in line with the Codex Alimentarius (Food Code).

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Phoenix High Security Prison, also known as La Bastille, would be reopened to accommodate high profile detainees.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms advising the President of the Republic to make the Civil Establishment Order 2017 and the Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) Order 2017 that establish offices in the public service, determine the number of persons who may be appointed to such offices, and the emoluments to be attached to such offices.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of an assessment carried out by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to determine the level of compliance of National Sports Federations with the Sports Act 2016. The Act provides for Sports Federations to be registered with the Registrar of Associations in accordance with the Registration of Associations Act, as well as conform with the Sports Act 2016, including the rules specified in the Second Schedule of the Act. Currently, all the Sports Federations are not fully compliant with the Sports Act. The Ministry of Youth and Sports is carrying out campaigns to sensitise the Sports Federations on the need to strictly comply with the provision of the Sports Act.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to mark the World Suicide Prevention Day, observed on 10 September, namely –

- (a) a one day workshop to reflect on the role of the community on suicide prevention;
- (b) sensitisation programmes to encourage the community to assist in suicide prevention; and
- (c) training courses to raise awareness on suicidal tendencies and depression.

The theme for this year is **“Take a minute, change a life”**.

In Mauritius, the rate of suicide is around 6 per 100,000 persons annually. Sixty-six suicides and 356 cases of attempt at suicide had been reported in 2016.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment to Mozambique in the context of the launching of the book on inequality in Africa entitled *“Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants and Consequences”*, held in the margins of the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment was invited by the UNDP to share the Mauritian experience on poverty alleviation initiatives.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of Stage Play Censors with Mr Eric Louis Salmine as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Board of Film Classification with Mr Parmessur Chummun as Chairperson.
