

CABINET DECISIONS – 22 DECEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the New Cancer Centre Project at Solferino. An integrated project has been worked out comprising the renovation of the existing buildings as well as the construction of a new hospital block that will include bunkers to accommodate two Linear Accelerators and other up-to-date equipment. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs1.5 billion.

2. Cabinet has taken note that, during the International Conference on Air Services Negotiations Event (ICAN) 2017, organised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the Mauritius delegation had air services negotiations with six countries, namely Chile, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Russian Federation and Lao People's Democratic Republic, initiated three Bilateral Air Services Agreements and signed three corresponding Memoranda of Understanding with Ghana, Namibia and Morocco. A Bilateral Air Services Agreement was also signed between Mauritius and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mauritius and the Russian Federation, where provisions have been made for codeshare rights between the designated airlines of either Contracting Party and airlines of any third country. Agreed Minutes and a Codeshare Framework Agreement were signed between Mauritius and the Republic of Chile.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the extension of the registration marks of motor vehicles beyond FM 2500 in accordance with the Road Traffic Act. In order to cater for public demand, the National Transport Authority will, in the first stage, extend the registration marks covering FN1 to FN 1000 up to ZZ1 to ZZ 1000, with the exception of certain alphabets.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport making the Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations to amend the Road Traffic Regulations 1954 on Driving Licences under the Road Traffic Act, in respect of licensing of drivers of motorcycles and autocycles. The Regulations would provide, among others, for the autocycle/motorcycle class to be subdivided into four different types in accordance with the SADC and international classifications and the validity of the learner driving licence for the four types of vehicles.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Tourism making the Tourism Authority (Designation and Regulation of Embarkation Points of Pleasure Craft for Commercial Purposes) Regulations. The publication of the list of the Embarkation Points would empower the National Coast Guard to better enforce the conditions pertaining to Embarkation Point and sanction illegal operations by pleasure craft operators. The Regulations would be effective on 1 January 2018.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister to Paris where he attended the One Planet Summit. The aim of the Summit was to find new means of financing the adaptation to climate change, of further speeding up the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and of ensuring that climate issues are central to the international finance sector. Three sessions were held on –

- (a) Amplifying Finance Towards Adaptation and Resilience;
- (b) Accelerating the Transition towards a Low Carbon Economy; and
- (c) Anchoring Climate Issues at the Heart of Financial Systems and Investors' Decision Making.

At the end of the Summit, 12 commitments were taken on various issues, namely, Responding to Extreme Events in Island States; Protecting land and water against climate change; Mobilizing Researchers and Young People to work for the Planet; Public Procurement and Access of Local Governments to Green Financing; Zero Emissions Target; Sectoral shifts towards decarbonized economies; Zero-Pollution Transport; Regional Collaboration on Carbon Pricing; Actions of Central Banks and Businesses; International mobilization of International Banks; Commitment by Sovereign Funds; and Mobilizing Institutional Investors.

In the margins of the Summit, the Hon Prime Minister discussed the Chagos issue with other Heads of State/Government and encouraged them to make supportive submissions to the International Court of Justice. He also had a working session with Prof Joel de Rosnay, famous researcher and scientist of Mauritian origin with whom he discussed collaboration in the field of Sustainable Development.

7. Cabinet has taken note that a Project Management Manual for ICT projects has been prepared by the Central Informatics Bureau. The Manual gives an overview of the Project Management Methodology applicable to ICT projects and provides an implementation framework which can be adapted for ICT projects in the Civil Service. The Manual which is based on leading international project management methodologies will support the current e-Government Strategy and will aim at bringing benefits in terms of increasing efficiency in implementing projects, reducing variances in project which result in cost overruns and delays in implementation and completion of projects.

8. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius acceding to the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. The Convention aims at defining the objectives and broad orientations of the Information Society in Africa and strengthening existing legislation on Information and Communication Technologies of Member States and Regional Economic Communities. The signing of the Convention will help, inter alia, to -

- (a) foster cooperation with other African countries concerning criminal offences related to computer systems and data;
- (b) gain spontaneous information to carry out investigations or proceedings concerning criminal offences established in accordance with the Convention; and

- (c) combat cybercrime across the African region and provide a secure environment for business.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a full-fledged Secretariat and a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up at the level of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms to look into all issues pertaining to Human Rights. The National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up, that will be chaired by the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms, will be mandated to coordinate, prepare reports and engage with the international and regional Human Rights Mechanisms and to monitor national follow-up and implementation of the treaty obligations and recommendations/decisions.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the main recommendations emanating from the Consultative Workshop on the Pleasure Craft Sector organised by the Tourism Authority. The objectives of the Workshop were to brainstorm on the challenges facing the Sector, come up with recommendations to re-energise the sector and create a level playing field for all stakeholders. Pleasure craft operators, boat builders, skippers, owners of boathouses, diving and kitesurfing centres, and public sector stakeholders participated in the Workshop.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism to Reunion Island where he participated in the 8th edition of the '*Festival Liberté Métisse*' and the General Assembly of the Vanilla Islands Organisation. The Festival is a celebration of cultural diversity and seeks to enhance ties of friendship and cooperation between the Indian Ocean islands. The theme for this year was '*Le masque dans tous ses états*'. In the margins of the Festival, the General Assembly of the Vanilla Islands Organisation was held to adopt the current budget and the action plan for the next year. "*L'Association des ports des îles de l'océan Indien*" and the Vanilla Islands Organisation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate cruise development in the region.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Arts and Culture to South Korea where he attended the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. Mauritius submitted two Periodic Reports on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage that were commended by UNESCO. The file for the nomination of the *Sega Tambour of Rodrigues* for inscription on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was examined and inscribed on the List by acclamation. The Committee also examined and unanimously agreed to the proposal of Mauritius to host the 13th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2018.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives and the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping to Egypt where they participated in the Africa 2017 Forum organised by the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation of Egypt, and the COMESA Regional Investment Agency. The Forum offered business owners with an opportunity to meet investors, engage with political leaders and policy makers and explore new ideas to improve business environment across the continent. The Forum came up with a number of recommendations, namely -

- (a) injecting new investments in Africa to boost economic growth and development;
- (b) establishment of joint projects, particularly in infrastructure, to support investment and trade among African states; and
- (c) execution of programs that encourage entrepreneurship and the adoption of programs that would increase youth's participation in the African economy.

In the margins of the Forum, the Mauritian delegation had a meeting with Professor Adnan Kjahil, Minister of Foreign Investment of Macedonia and discussed the Doing Business Initiative and the e-Licensing platform being developed in Mauritius. The Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping had a meeting with Dr Alsnosy Balbaa, Vice-President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport for African and Asian Affairs and discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms to Geneva where he participated in the Meetings of the UN Committee against Torture, during which the Fourth Periodic Report of the Republic of Mauritius on the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was considered. The Committee has, inter alia, welcomed-

- (a) Government political commitment to legal, policy and institutional reform laid down in the Government Programme 2015-2019 that will help compliance with our obligations under the Convention;
- (b) the ratification by Mauritius of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in 2011; and
- (c) the adoption of several pieces of legislation that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to Addis Ababa where she participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the 2nd African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The Meeting adopted the Experts' Report on the 2004 AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) that requires the African Union (AU) Member States and the African Union Commission Chairperson to report annually and to provide regular updates during the AU Heads of State and Government Assembly on progress made in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment. It also adopted the Experts' Report on a standardized reporting template for submission of future SDGEA Reports to ensure harmonization among Member States and provide opportunities to locate and share good practices for the benefit of all countries.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the National Youth Council with Mrs Raksha Ramloll as Chairperson.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees of La Clinique Mauricienne for the year 2018.
