

CABINET DECISIONS – 25 AUGUST 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that a Ministerial Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, has been set up to consider the impact of the implementation of the Metro Express Project on the bus industry workers.

2. Cabinet has agreed to Government making a contribution of USD100,000 to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in the humanitarian crisis prevailing following the recent flooding and mudslide.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Council of Ministers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to allow Mauritian nationals holding ordinary Passports to enter the United Arab Emirates for a period of 30 days free of charge. The visa is renewable for a similar period of one time (30 days) provided the prescribed fees, according to the country regulations, are paid. The decision is in effect as from 1 August 2017.

4. Cabinet has taken note of development in the implementation of the Safe City Project to further combat crime as announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018. The Project is expected to generate tangible socio-economic benefits that will underpin Mauritius becoming a smart country as enunciated in Government Vision 2030.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the adoption and implementation of the Cybercrime Strategy, which is in line with the requirements of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect, handle and prosecute cybercriminals, and the Judiciary to better address the issue whenever cases are brought before Courts.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation also proposes to set up a National Disaster Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Committee to chart the way forward on the protocols to be observed when cyber attacks occur.

6. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements being made by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to implement priority health projects, including the construction of the New Cancer Centre (Specialised Hospital); Mediclinics in Quartier Militaire, Bel Air and Stanley; the New Flacq Hospital; and the New Moka Eye Hospital.

7. Cabinet has taken note of arrangements made for the introduction, as from September 2017, of a Medical Visa on Arrival to foreign patients intending to follow treatment in private health care institutions in Mauritius as enunciated in Budget Speech 2017-2018, and in line with Government vision to making Mauritius a medical hub in the region.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the State Recognition Allowance Scheme for Retired Athletes as announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018. The Scheme would be applicable to Mauritian sportspersons who have won either a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the World Cup, the Commonwealth Games, the Francophone Games, the African Games, the African/World Championship in either an Olympic or Non-Olympic discipline.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the nomination ceremony of Ms Jane Constance, MSK, as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Artist for Peace would be held on 26 September 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Ms Jane Constance would, accordingly, be required to participate in international events as UNESCO Artist for Peace.

10. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius signing the Agreement establishing a Tripartite Free Trade Area among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The objectives of the Tripartite Free Trade Area are, among others, to –

- (a) promote economic and social development of the Region;
- (b) create a large single market with free movement of goods and services to promote intra-regional trade; and
- (c) enhance the regional and continental integration processes.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area represents an integrated market of 26 countries, with a combined population of 632 million people, i.e., 57% of the Africa's population, and a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD1.3 trillion in 2014.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Allied Health Professionals Council Act would be proclaimed to come into operation on 01 September 2017. The Act provides for the establishment of the Allied Health Professionals Council of Mauritius that will, inter alia, -

- (a) register and regulate the professional conduct, and promote the advancement of Allied Health Professionals, such as audiologists, chiropractors, clinical scientists, counsellors, dietitians, radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, nutritionists, occupational therapists, orthopaedic technicians, osteopaths, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, psychomotor therapists, psychotherapists, speech therapists and sports therapists; and
- (b) approve, conduct or cause to be conducted training courses, programmes, lectures, seminars or conferences, including continuous professional development courses or programmes.

12. Cabinet has taken note that, since the launching of the Citizen Support Portal on 28 April 2017, some 10,368 requests have been received and, as at 31 July 2017, some 6,653 resolved. The Citizen Support Portal is part of a wider system to develop ways of bringing citizens' experience of service delivery into planning and management of Government services, and also enable decision makers to adjust policies and programmes to influence outcomes on the ground.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Africa Research Group of the Nottingham University Business School, in collaboration with the University of Mauritius, would hold the 5th International Conference on Managing Organisations in Africa in Mauritius from 29 to 31 August 2017. The objectives of the Conference are, among others, to -

- (a) have a clearer understanding of the changing organisational, workplace, socio-cultural, entrepreneurial and investment environment in Africa today; and
- (b) indicate ways and means to enhance people's wellbeing, as well as measures that would help create employment, the building of viable businesses, and the provision of a sustainable investment climate.

Some 55 academics and researchers from the United Kingdom, Sweden, South Africa, Kenya, Australia and Mauritius would attend the Conference.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms to Ethiopia where he attended the Meeting of Ministers of Finance on the Implementation of the Kigali Assembly Decision on Financing the African Union. The main objective of the Meeting was to consider the challenges faced by Member States in the implementation of the Decision. The Minister had a meeting with Dr Donald Kaberuka, former President of the African Development Bank, and Special Envoy of the African Union on Sustainable Financing for the Union and Funding for Peace in Africa, on the implementation of the 0.2% levy on eligible imported goods.
