

CABINET DECISIONS – 3 NOVEMBER 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note that the World Bank in its Report Doing Business 2018: Reforming to create jobs has ranked Mauritius 25th in the world, as compared to 49th in the previous Report, i.e., first in Africa.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Small and Medium Enterprises Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to repeal and replace the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act by a modern, more business friendly and appropriate legislative framework for the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector. The Bill makes provision for, inter alia, a Registrar of Small and Medium Enterprises, who would be responsible for the registration of small and medium enterprises, and provide support and information to facilitate the obtention of a registration permit, a licence, an authorisation, or a clearance which an enterprise may require.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Code de Commerce (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to amend the Code de Commerce in order to give effect to the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (The Montreal Convention 1999) relating to airline liability in case of death or injury to passengers, and delay, damage or loss of baggage and cargo.

4. Cabinet has taken note that, as announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018, the Ministry of Tourism would, as from 15 November 2017, introduce a voucher system that would entitle a tourist to a discount of Rs200 on a minimum purchase of Rs1,000 of Mauritian handicraft products.

5. Cabinet has taken note of development in the preparation of the nomination dossier of **Sega Chagos**, for inscription on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding to address and rectify threats posed to such heritage of humanity.

6. Cabinet has agreed to tyres and tubes, and timber being removed from the list of goods under price control. The Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) Regulations would be amended accordingly.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the ceremony for the National Awards for Cooperatives 2017 would be held on 10 November 2017. The objectives of the National Awards are, among others, to support a high quality system, good governance and sound management practices; encourage initiatives for alleviating poverty and empowering young people and women; and inspire the cooperative movement to contribute significantly towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Science, Higher Education and Vocational Technical Education with the Government of the Republic of Mozambique with a view to internationalizing the higher education sector, and further boosting the knowledge hub agenda.

9. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, commemorated on 03 December, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development would organise a cultural programme to showcase the artistic talent of persons with disabilities, an award ceremony to reward employers who have employed a significant number of persons with disabilities, and employees with disabilities who have created an impact in their line of work. The theme for this year is "**Transformation towards a sustainable and resilient society for all**". On that occasion, a number of activities would be organised by the local authorities for the benefit of disabled persons, including a Petanque Tournament, sports and recreational activities, and a handicraft exhibition.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Mozambique where he participated in the Innovation Africa 2017 Summit. The Summit brings together ministers, senior government officials, the private sector, experts in education, and industry leaders to discuss education programmes, new technologies and ICT infrastructure. During the Summit, the Minister had meetings, among others, with Prof. Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, on collaboration for research in topics relating to innovation and ICT, and Mr Adrian Matthew of EL Comp (Pty) Ltd, supplier of electronic devices that address the needs of the disabled.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities organised by the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2017, namely an Open Day to sensitise Rodriguans on the different schemes, programmes and projects being offered by the National Empowerment Foundation, launching of the Life Skills Education Training, and a pastry course for those unemployed and registered in the Social Register of Mauritius.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance to Washington D.C. and London. In Washington D.C., the Minister participated in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Group, and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting. The Minister had a meeting with Mr Abebe Selassie, Director of the Africa Department of the International Monetary Fund, on development objectives and the main challenges facing Mauritius, including Ocean Economy, Education Reform, and Ease of Doing Business. Bilateral meetings were also held with the Minister of Finance of Senegal on the execution of the Special Economic Zone initiative in Senegal, and the Deputy Minister of Finance of Ghana on the setting up of a Cyber Tower and a Technology and Business Park in Ghana. In London, the delegation, led by the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance, had meetings with various financial operators who have expressed a keen interest to consider Mauritius as a cross border platform for Africa.
