

CABINET DECISIONS – 09 NOVEMBER 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the review of policies for the grant of work permits, in line with the measures announced in Budget Speech 2017/2018 to facilitate the employment of foreign labour in needy economic sectors, namely regarding the extension of 8-year work permit policy, to some other sectors, and the issue of work permit within 15 working days. It is also proposed to, inter alia, review the current ratio policy for the issue of work permits in some sectors and introduce work permit smart cards in lieu of work permits.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the change in procedure pertaining to the timing for payment of compensation in cases of compulsory land acquisition. In order not to penalise former owners, henceforth, whenever an offer of compensation is made to the former owner and the latter is not agreeable thereto, he would be given an option to accept, pending the award of the Board of Assessment, an interim payment, as assessed by the Valuation Department, which would be effected soon after the transcription of the Notice under the Land Acquisition Act.

3. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would submit its candidacy to be part of the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) for a two-year term, from 2019 to 2020. CABOS is the main sport policy advisory body in the Commonwealth which advises the Commonwealth Secretary-General and member Governments on sport policy issues, particularly related to Sport for Development and Peace and protecting the integrity of sport.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the first call for projects which was launched by the National Arts Fund on 25 July 2018. At the closing date, some 56 applications were received, out of which 3 were from Rodrigues. Following an assessment exercise, 24 projects, including 2 from Rodrigues have been approved for an amount of around Rs9.8 million.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements being made to facilitate the participation of Mauritian delegates in the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention to be held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh and Kumbh Snan in Prayagraj in January 2019.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would make Regulations under the Medical Council Act with a view to amending Regulation 5 of the Medical Council (Medical Institutions) Regulations 2016 to provide that where a person has, on or before 1 January 2017, been studying, or enrolled to study, medicine at a medical institution, that medical institution shall, in respect of that person, be deemed to be a medical institution under these regulations.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the “Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2017”. The Yearbook provides information on population trends, family planning and health service points for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues for use by planners and policy makers. As regards the projection for the population of Mauritius, it would show a declining trend after 2021.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare on the occasion of the Universal Children’s Day, commemorated on 20 November. The official celebration comprising the following activities would be held at the National Women Development Centre, Phoenix –

- (a) launching of a special awareness campaign and film projection on Drug and Substance Abuse in collaboration with ADSU;
- (b) photo exhibition on Drug and Substance Abuse;
- (c) talks on values and family welfare;
- (d) sensitisation on road safety; and
- (e) artistic activities.

The theme for this year is “**Nou zanf an avan tou.**”

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, commemorated on 25 November, including –

- (a) a function at the Octave Wiehé Auditorium, Réduit which would comprise a sketch on violence against women, the launching of the National Protocol on Domestic Violence and booklet on Pre-Marital Counselling and Marriage Enrichment Programme, and an Open Day on services offered for addressing violence against women;
- (b) the signing of the National Protocol on Domestic Violence in the Republic of Mauritius;
- (c) a Consultative Workshop on the Perpetrators Rehabilitation Programme with key stakeholders on 22 November 2018; and
- (d) an awareness raising campaign.

The slogan retained by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare is “**sorti dan to silans, denons violans**”.
