

CABINET DECISIONS – 13 APRIL 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius concluding a Bilateral Air Services Agreement with the Republic of Turkey, and to the authorisation of the eleven temporary additional frequencies granted to Emirates Airlines being extended for a further period of one year up to 31 October 2019.

2. Cabinet has agreed to Mauritius acceding to the Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States. The Addis Convention aims, inter alia, at –

- (a) strengthening and promoting international cooperation in the field of recognition of qualifications;
- (b) defining and putting in place effective quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms at the national, regional and continental levels;
- (c) promoting the widest and most effective use of human resources in Africa and limiting brain-drain on the Continent;
- (d) facilitating the exchange and greater mobility of students, academics and researchers of the Continent;
- (e) furthering high level inter-institutional training and research programmes; and
- (f) contributing to the harmonization of qualifications taking into account current global trends.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Institute of Health would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Population Fund on, inter alia, training and research on sexual and reproductive health for the Africa region. The main purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to support the Mauritius Institute of Health in pursuing its mandate of being a regional reference centre of excellence in Africa for training and research on sexual and reproductive health. It also aims at consolidating capacity building development of health professionals in Reproductive Health and Planned Parenthood in collaboration with international agencies.

4. Cabinet has taken note that a new “*Accord Cadre de Collaboration et de Partenariat*” would be signed between l’Université des Mascareignes and l’Université de Limoges, France. The new provisions of the *Accord Cadre* relate, among others, to the optimisation by the l’Université des Mascareignes of the use of the research potential of Université de Limoges while consolidating its doctoral school, a higher international dimension being given to the “*Accord Cadre*” at the sub-regional and regional levels, governance of l’Université des Mascareignes, and the practical modalities of cooperation and exchange of information between the two institutions.

5. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius would co-host together with the United Nations, the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Private Sector Partnership Forum and a SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) region, from 21 to 25 May 2018. The Forum aims at forging collaboration among SIDS regional private sector organisations for a better exchange of experiences and best practices. The theme of the 2018 Forum will be “*Strengthening private sector partnerships for sustainable tourism development*”. The SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the AIMS region aims at reviewing the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway which articulates the sustainable development agenda for SIDS. Some 150 participants would attend the meetings.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the African Union Commission would hold a Retreat of the Permanent Representative Committee Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, in Mauritius, from 18 to 20 April 2018. The aim of the retreat is to develop guidelines and strategies with a view to ensuring that all engagements of the African Union with its strategic partners are guided by well-defined objectives, goals and targets in line with Agenda 2063 priority areas and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, in collaboration with the National Computer Board, would organise a Workshop on Open Data from 25 to 27 April 2018. The Open Data Portal would be launched during the Workshop. The Workshop would target members of the Open Data Teams of Ministries, representatives of parastatal bodies dealing with data sets, Advisers on Information Matters of Ministries, as well as journalists. Some 100 participants are expected to attend the Workshop.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) would organise the first Productivity and Quality Circle Convention, at national level, in August 2018. The organisation of the event aims at mitigating the decline in labour and capital productivity levels in the country, as highlighted in the IMF Country Report of 06 November 2017. The NPCC would serve as a platform to trigger enterprise productivity and innovation in order to achieve sustainable growth and competitiveness. It would also provide an opportunity to small and medium enterprises as well as large companies and public sector organisations, to showcase outstanding productivity and quality improvement initiatives.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development to mark Earth Day 2018, celebrated on 22 April, namely –

- (a) the official launching of the National Tree Planting Campaign at the Royal College of Curepipe on 22 April 2018, including the distribution of medicinal/decorative plants to students and the community and a collection of plastics and PET bottles from 22 to 29 April 2018 in Curepipe;
- (b) a National Tree Planting campaign in all primary and secondary schools from 22 to 27 April 2018;
- (c) the launching of the second edition of the booklet “*Une Famille, Une Plante*”; and
- (d) a talk on radio to sensitise the public on the importance of Earth Day and environmental protection.

The theme for this year is ‘End Plastic Pollution’.

10. Cabinet has taken note that in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence, the Ministry of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the High Commission of India would organise activities for the India Week from 14 to 22 April 2018. Renowned singer, Ms Kavita Paudwal and 53 artists from India would perform during the India Week.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised in the context of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, celebrated on 18 April 2018, namely -

- (a) an official function and Award ceremony for the Heritage Short Film Competition on the theme "Contribution of our heritage in nation building", followed by screening of awarded short films and a cultural programme on Sega Tipik, Bhojpuri Geet Gawai, Sega Tambour of Rodrigues and Sega Tambour Chagos on 18 April 2018; and
- (b) Open days on 21 and 22 April 2018 at various heritage sites.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Assessment 2018 would be held as follows –

- (a) **Grade 5**
Modular Assessment (Module 1)

Date	Subject
Tuesday 09 October 2018	Science
“ “	History & Geography

- (b) **Grade 6**
Modular Assessment (Module 2)

Date	Subject
Tuesday 28 August 2018	Science
Wednesday 29 August 2018	History & Geography

End of Year Assessment

Date	Subject
Tuesday 23 October 2018	French
Wednesday 24 October 2018	English
Thursday 25 October 2018	Asian Languages/Arabic/ Kreol Morisien
Friday 26 October 2018	Mathematics

Some 17,029 pupils would take part in the PSAC Assessment 2018. Results would be announced around 12 December 2018. The Re-assessment in specific core subjects for eligible pupils would be held on 21 December 2018 and results announced by 28 December 2018.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has started its annual vaccination campaign against seasonal influenza as from 11 April 2018 at the level of the Regional and district Hospitals, Mediclinic, Area Health Centres and thereafter in Rodrigues and Agalega. The vaccination campaign targets the vulnerable sections of the population recommended by the WHO namely, people with high risk including, pregnant women, children aged between 6 months to 5 years, patients below 60 years suffering from health complications, healthcare personnel exposed to patients suffering from influenza and also the general public.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the election of Mr Mahesh Koolwont, Acting Accreditation Manager at the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS), as Vice-Chair of the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) Technical Committee.

15. Cabinet has taken note that according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 119,841 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of March 2018 as compared to 110,271 in March 2017, i.e., an increase of 8.7%. During the first quarter of 2018, 356,415 tourists visited Mauritius as compared to 339,682 for the same period in 2017, i.e., an increase of 4.9%. Growth has been reported in arrivals from Germany (+13.3%), United Kingdom (+12.7%), Italy (+16.4%), India (+15.3%), South Africa (+39.2%), Saudi Arabia (+71%), Spain (+64.8%), Czech Republic (+52.4%), the Netherlands (+48.8%), Switzerland (+35.4%) and Australia (+22.2%).

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the National Women Entrepreneur Council with Mrs Sandra Mayotte as Chairperson.
