

**CABINET DECISIONS – 14 JUNE 2018**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare submitting the 8th Periodic State Party Report of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for Mauritius, to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva, for consideration. The Report focuses, inter alia, on –

- (a) information and statistics on the current situation of women and the data collection system in the registration of reported cases of domestic violence and child abuse;
- (b) the institutional mechanism in place and the legislation that have been passed in the National Assembly relating to gender equality;
- (c) measures taken to ensure that women are aware of their rights under the Convention and have effective access to justice;
- (d) activities of the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare geared towards the advancement of women; and
- (e) initiatives put in place to safeguard the educational rights of girls and boys in Mauritius and to promote equality at the workplace.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the National Innovation Challenge organised by the Mauritius Research Council, a new television series entitled “The National Innovation Challenge” has been produced and would be broadcast on the local television from 16 July to 03 September 2018. The National Innovation Challenge is a competition to uncover and foster local and professional innovations created by Mauritians working in a variety of fields from academia, start-up and micro companies, small and medium enterprises, communities to local schools and home inventions. The competition proposes to showcase, nurture and reward ideas leading to potentially life changing solutions from the Mauritian population. The overall winner would receive a prize of Rs500,000 to implement his idea, a trophy and a recognition certificate.

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3. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr at national level, the following activities would be organised -

- (a) a lunch for inmates of orphanages and day care centres by the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund on 23 June 2018;
- (b) a play on the significance of Eid on 01 July 2018 at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture;
- (c) a Qawwali and Ghazal night on 02 July 2018 at the Salle des Fêtes, Plaza; and
- (d) an Eid Cultural Gathering on 08 July 2018 at the Brisée Verdière Social Welfare Centre.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised to mark Music Day celebrated on 21 June, namely –

- (a) the launching of the 'Médiathèque' at the National Library, Port Louis; and
- (b) a marching band comprising the Mauritius Police Force, the Mauritius Prison Service and artists of Group Mo'Zar which would depart from Renganaden Seeneevassen Building, Port Louis and proceed to the National Library and the Esplanade of the Municipal City Council.

Various events would be also organised by Departments, Parastatal bodies and local authorities to mark Music Day 2018.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Annual Civil Service Kermesse would be held on 11 November 2018 at the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas.

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6. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training to Switzerland where he participated in the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference. The Agenda for the 107th Session comprised, among others, the following –

- (a) Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations;
- (b) Effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- (c) Violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training had bilateral discussions with the delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the Annual Report of the Town and Country Planning Board for the period January 2016 to June 2017. The main functions of the Town and Country Planning Board are to prepare Outline Schemes for each local authority with a view to having a planned and orderly development of land in the island of Mauritius and review regularly these Outline Schemes to respond to changing policies with respect to economic development, environmental sustainability and social equity.

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8. Cabinet has taken note that a total of 5,527 vacancies in the civil service have been filled during the period 01 July 2017 to 31 May 2018.

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