

CABINET DECISIONS – 18 MAY 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Use of Pesticides Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to regulate, control and monitor the importation and use of pesticides in or on certain fresh fruits, plants, seeds or vegetables with a view to, inter alia, minimising risks to human health and the environment.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Ministerial Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to look into the recommendations of the Report on Sugar submitted by the Joint Technical Committee which was co-chaired by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and Business Mauritius which represented the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the discussions held at the 14th Meeting of the Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf and the Air Services Negotiations between Mauritius and Seychelles, in the Seychelles. The Mauritius-Seychelles Joint Commission reviewed progress in relation to the elaboration of the institutional and regulatory framework for the Joint Management of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region. During the Air Services Negotiations, it was agreed that the national airline of both countries would have further discussions to, inter alia, explore possibilities of concluding cooperative commercial arrangements in the interest of both airlines.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organization with a view to defining the implementation of the Regional Resources and Ecosystem Survey in the EEZ of Mauritius during 2018, in accordance with the Government Cooperative Programme Agreement. The FAO would be responsible for the conduct of the survey by research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen in the marine areas within the jurisdiction of Mauritius, and for provision of services, facilities and technical inputs for the exercise. The FAO would provide complete data set and analyses, as well as reports on data processing, statistical analysis and estimation techniques to the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Biochemistry Department of the Central Health Service has conducted with the assistance of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an important study making use of Stable Isotope technique to improve nutrition and prevent non communicable disease. The IAEA has congratulated Mauritius on the success of the study. The potential of the Biochemistry Lab as a Training Centre in the African region is being recognised.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the Report - "A Quantitative Assessment of Intimate Partner Violence and Associated Economic Costs in Mauritius", which was commissioned by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and prepared by the University of Mauritius. Various causes of intimate partner violence have been identified, including alcohol abuse, past abusive experience, and financial problems. The study has estimated the monetary value of the burden of intimate partner violence on the national economy at Rs2 billion. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare would disseminate the Report to all stakeholders concerned, including policy makers.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the performance of the Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOE) Sector over the first quarter of 2018 as compared to the corresponding period in 2017. The value of exports of the EOE Sector has increased for the period January to March 2018 by 6.2% compared to the corresponding period in 2017. Increase has been recorded in the value of exports of Textiles & Clothing, fish and fish preparations, medical devices and watches and clocks. Growth has been recorded in exports to the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, the USA, Germany and South Africa. The Speed to Market Scheme and reduced corporate tax have contributed to the improved performance.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms would launch the Public Service Excellence Award (PSEA) Edition 2017 in June 2018 on the theme "*Fostering creativity and innovation to better respond to citizens' needs*". The selected best three entries would receive in order of merit the Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards and would be offered cash prizes as follows –

Gold Award :	Rs100,000
Silver Award :	Rs 60,000
Bronze Award :	Rs 40,000

9. Cabinet has taken note that in the context of the World No Tobacco Day 2018, observed on 31 May, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would, among others, -

- (a) organise an official ceremony for the launching of activities on 31 May 2018 at the MBC, Moka;
- (b) carry out screening of Non-Communicable Diseases;
- (c) hold an exhibition on "Tobacco and Heart Disease";
- (d) mount a sensitization campaign on the ill-effects of tobacco use; and
- (e) launch a new set of Graphic Health Warnings on cigarettes packets.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would celebrate the International Day of Yoga on 24 June 2018 at Shrimati Indira Gandhi State Secondary School, Quartier Militaire, in collaboration with the High Commission of India. Some 800 participants, including students, members of youth associations and health clubs and practitioners of yoga would take part in the event.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development would organise various activities to mark the World Environment Day 2018, commemorated on 5 June, including –

- (a) an official ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute on 5 June 2018 when the eco-bin project would be launched as well as a video clip, posters and pamphlets on the negative impacts of plastic on the environment;
- (b) an exhibition on 7 and 8 June 2018 at the City Council of Port Louis to sensitise the public on the impacts of plastic inland and at sea; and
- (c) one-day cleaning of the beach and lagoon at the Flic-en-Flac Public Beach and sensitisation campaigns to create awareness in the public.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity 2018, commemorated on 22 May. The activities would be carried out throughout the year and would comprise, among others, -

- (a) the inauguration of an Arboretum set up at the Native Plant Propagation Centre in Curepipe where rare species of endemic plants, are propagated and planted;
- (b) an open week for secondary students at the Arboretum and the Native Plant Propagation Centre;
- (c) an exhibition on the native biodiversity; and
- (d) planting of endemic trees in the national parks and various selected sites and distribution of native plants to all schools.

The theme for this year is **“Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity”**.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius would host the 48th African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Bi-Annual Research Workshop from 30 May to 09 June 2018. The Workshop would provide a forum in which the participants can meet within a worldwide network of professionals and deal with issues relevant to Africa's economic development and an opportunity for monitoring the progress and quality of the various research projects sponsored by the AERC. The theme of the plenary session would be "Innovation and Incubation for Africa's Transformation". Some 200 participants are expected to attend the Workshop.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research to Kenya, where she participated in the Pan-Africa High-Level Conference on Education (PACE 2018). The Conference served as a means to determine where African countries situated themselves in efforts towards integrating/mainstreaming the internationally agreed targets (Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals) and regionally agreed targets and commitments as per the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 into their national education policies, plans and practices. The Conference adopted the Nairobi Declaration and Call for Action on Education Bridging continental and global education frameworks for the Africa we want.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Council of -

- (a) the Tamil Speaking Union with Dr Ponsamy Tiroumalechetty as President; and
- (b) the Chinese Speaking Union with Mr Eddy Tong Sam as President.
