

CABINET DECISIONS – 19 OCTOBER 2018

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation (2016-2017) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the supplementary appropriation, by votes of expenditure, both recurrent and capital, in respect of services of Government for the financial year 2016-2017, in excess of the expenditure appropriated by the Appropriation (2016-2017) Act 2016.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Radiation Safety and Nuclear Security Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to repeal the Radiation Protection Act and replace it by a modern and comprehensive legislative framework with a view to enabling Mauritius to meet its obligations under the international legal instruments ratified by it in the field of radiation safety, nuclear security and safeguards. The Bill accordingly provides for the establishment of a Radiation Safety and Nuclear Security Authority which shall, inter alia –

- (a) regulate and control all radiation sources and practices for the adequate protection of people and the environment against the harmful effects of ionising radiation, and for the safety of practices and the security of radioactive sources;
- (b) create the conditions for the promotion of radiation safety and nuclear security culture;
- (c) promote education, training, research and development in radiation safety and nuclear security;
- (d) be the point of contact for providing any information or assistance regarding nuclear or radiological emergencies under the terms of relevant international instruments, including the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency; and
- (e) discharge such other functions as may be necessary to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Judicial and Legal Provisions (No. 2) Bill into the National Assembly. The main objects of the Bill are to provide for –

- (a) the use of modern technology in recording evidence;
- (b) the correction of errors in sentencing; and
- (c) certain procedural matters in civil cases.

The Criminal Code is also being amended to provide for the offence of perverting the course of justice. Various other enactments are being amended to, inter alia –

- (a) clarify some provisions of the Mauritius Bar Association Act;
- (b) bring improvements to the Information and Communication Technologies Act;
- (c) empower the Attorney General to obtain the evidence of a witness in another State, in any proceedings, other than criminal proceedings pending before a Court in Mauritius; and
- (d) provide for a better mechanism to update the list of jurors.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms advising the President of the Republic to make the Civil Establishment (Rodrigues Regional Assembly) (Amendment) Order 2018. The Civil Establishment Order establishes offices in the public service, and determines the emoluments to be attached to such offices.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) signing two Memoranda of Understanding with the Kenya Ports Authority and the Abu Dhabi Ports respectively, for collaboration in areas of port development, promoting transshipment traffic, knowledge transfer and exchange of information necessary for the acceleration and development of the cruise industry. Entering into a collaborative framework with the two ports forms part of the strategic port partnership programme adopted by the MPA during the Mauritius Maritime Week 2018 to showcase Port Louis as a cruise destination encompassing the fly and cruise concept as well as enhancing the visibility of Port Louis Harbour as an important maritime logistics and transport hub.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the establishment of a Joint Committee for Cooperation during the official visit of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates to Mauritius from 26 to 28 October 2018. The Joint Committee for Cooperation would provide a platform for both Governments to monitor existing areas of cooperation and explore new ones.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the revised eligibility criteria that would be applicable for the One-Off Cash Grant Scheme to enable Child Day Care Centres to upgrade their standards, as announced in the Budget Speech 2018/2019. With the implementation of the Scheme, an increasing number of Child Day Care Centres would be able to upgrade their standards and be in conformity with the law, thus ensuring the safety and security of the children admitted thereat in a conducive environment. A call for applications from existing Child Day Care Centres would be made through a Press Communiqué and the website of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry on Alleged Land and Other Property Scam chaired by Hon David Chan Kan Cheong, Puisne Judge. The recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry would be examined by the Ministry of Housing and Lands in consultation with the Attorney General's Office in the drafting of the Real Estates Agents Bill with a view to establishing a Real Estates Agents Authority, setting professional standards for real estate agents and providing accountability and transparency in the profession.

9. Cabinet has taken note of a proposal made for the introduction of UBER Transport Services in Mauritius which has been examined by the National Transport Authority (NTA). Cabinet has further noted that following consultations held by the NTA with relevant stakeholders, it has been decided that the request for introduction of UBER Transport Services or other similar services would not be acceded to.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised on the occasion of the 184th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers in Mauritius, commemorated on 2 November, namely an Official Ceremony comprising a wreath-laying ceremony, cultural performances and the launching of a book. The Chief Guest would be Hon Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly and President of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Bihar Branch.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the local authorities to mark the celebrations of Divali 2018 at national level. The National Divali Celebrations would include the performance of an international Bollywood singer on 5 November 2018 at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles and various activities at the regional level.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to India where he participated in the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Second Meeting of Ministers of Energy of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The main decisions taken at the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance were, among others, -

- (a) an amendment of the Framework Agreement of ISA to extend membership of the Alliance to all UN Member states;
- (b) the appointment of Mr Devendra Tripathy as Director General of the Alliance; and
- (c) the grant of partner country status to Lesotho, Spain, Tunisia and Tajikistan and partner organisation status to the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the New Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund, World Bank and European Investment Bank.

The Second Meeting of Ministers of Energy of IORA adopted a Delhi Declaration, taking the commitment that IORA would be guided by the various principles, including –

- (a) collaboration among IORA members in meeting the growing demand for renewable energy;
- (b) development of a common renewable energy agenda;
- (c) promoting regional capacity building and technology development and transfer;
- (d) strengthening Public Private Sector Partnerships to further renewable energy development in the region; and
- (e) promotion of sustainable tourism through application of renewable energy technologies to the tourism industry.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities to the Seychelles where he participated in the High Level Meeting on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at the initiative of the Government of the Seychelles. The Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport and the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection. The aim of the High Level Meeting was to discuss possibilities of importation, supply, distribution and use of LNG within countries of the Indian Ocean, especially for electricity generation so as to benefit from economies of scale. There was consensus on the way forward, namely that –

- (a) a Steering Committee comprising the representatives of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission would be set up, with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank and the Indian Ocean Commission as Secretary;

- (b) the Steering Committee would draft a Joint Memorandum of Understanding on the way forward to introduce LNG in the region;
- (c) the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Seychelles would organise a trade mission to Mozambique with the representatives from each country;
- (d) a private public partnership project on BOT structure with guaranteed tariff levels and shared ownership would be considered; and
- (e) a regional Memorandum of Understanding would be launched at the African Investment Forum in November 2018.

The Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation also paid a courtesy call on HE Mr Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues visited Rodrigues where he participated in the celebrations of the 16th Anniversary of the Autonomy of Rodrigues. Besides attending the official ceremony of the 16th Anniversary, the Minister Mentor had a meeting with the Executive Council. He also visited the Rehabilitation Youth Centre at Fond Baie aux Huîtres and inaugurated a new Community Centre and Multipurpose Pitch at Palissade Ternel.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Singapore where he participated in the 3rd Singapore International Cyber Week. The theme of the event was “Forging a Trusted and Open Cyberspace”. During his keynote address, the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of Singapore announced that with the increase of cyber attacks, Singapore was expanding its programme to deepen ASEAN's cyber capabilities and enhance the region's ability to respond to emerging global cyber threats through the setting up of an Asean-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence to strengthen Asean members' cyber strategy development, legislation and research capabilities.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had meetings with –

- (a) Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Communication and Information, Singapore and discussed areas of cooperation to pave the way for enhancing interaction towards Mauritius and ASEAN countries; and
- (b) Hon Abdul Mutalib Md. Yusof, Minister of Communications and Transport, Brunei Darussalam regarding air services between the two countries.

The Minister also attended the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). The event was an opportunity to meet other members of the GFCE including International Telecommunications Union, Council of Europe, World Bank, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation and other agencies to seek their assistance for capacity building programme to be organised in Mauritius.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation to Namibia where he participated in the South African Development Community (SADC) Joint Meeting of Ministers responsible for Transport, Information Communication Technology, Information and Meteorology. The meeting brought together policy makers, industry regulators, operators and Government senior officials to deliberate on developmental issues for the SADC region in the ICT, Information, Transport and Meteorological sectors. Decisions taken regarding ICT relate to the SADC National and Regional Integrated Broadband Infrastructure, the Public Key Infrastructure for the SADC region, the SADC Framework for a Shared Satellite System and the SADC Roaming Cost Model. The Minister also visited the Swakopmund Submarine Landing Station, a regional project that would enhance access to affordable Internet through the submarine cable landing station thereby making communication efficient and cost-effective.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport to Egypt. The Minister took cognizance and discussed various important infrastructural projects (roads, tunnels, social housing) being implemented. Site visits were effected, among others, to the Suez Canal Tunnels at Ismalia, the Traffic Central Control Room at Badr City, the Institute for Diplomatic Studies at Cairo and the New Administrative City outside the Capital city. The Minister also had meetings with –

- (a) the Prime Minister of Egypt to discuss possible areas of cooperation, namely the export of cement and other construction materials, and fruits such as mangoes, oranges and grapes; and
- (b) the President of Egyptian Federation for Construction and Building Contractors regarding prospects for export of cement and other constructions materials, sharing of expertise in the construction sector, and investment in social housing and property development.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance to Indonesia where he participated in the Annual Meetings of the IMF/World Bank Group. The Minister had meetings, among others, with –

- (a) Mr Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for Africa Region with whom he discussed the diversification strategy of Mauritius in the new era of development and sought the support of the World Bank to implement projects at the regional level; and
- (b) the Director of the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation (FCI) Global Practice of the World Bank and discussions focused on the possible measures that could be adopted to further strengthen our financial systems and enhance stability, soundness and transparency in the financial sector.

The Minister also had bilateral meetings with –

- (a) Hon Yaw Osafo Maafo, Senior Minister of the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana and Technical Economic Advisor of the Office of the Vice President; and
- (b) Hon Adama Kine, Minister of Finance of the Ivory Coast.

The Minister also attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting and issues raised included the enhancing of countries' capacity to reduce disaster risk, development of a Commonwealth Disaster Risk Finance Portal and accelerating the disaster financing through the expansion of the Climate Finance Access Hub.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the reappointment of Mr Dinay Reetoo, Principal State Counsel as Chairperson of the Co-operative Tribunal.

20. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Board of the Chagossian Welfare Fund with Mr Louis Olivier Bancoult, OSK as Chairperson; and
- (b) the Managing Committee of the Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports with Mr Theyvarajen Modelly Ponambalum as Chairperson.
