

**CABINET DECISIONS – 22 JANUARY 2018**

1. Cabinet has taken note of the situation in various sectors following the passage of Cyclone Berguitta and the actions taken for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure as well as relief provided to refugees affected by the cyclone. The following main issues have been noted –

- (i) Repairs to the electricity network have been completed and electricity supply has returned to normal.
- (ii) Water supply throughout the island has been restored. There has been no damage to the major dams. Five reservoirs have reached 100% storage and La Ferme Dam is at 70% of its capacity.
- (iii) The Road Development Authority has identified a number of regions across the island where repairs to drains, bridges, roads including construction of new drains, would have to be carried out.
- (iv) The cleaning of river banks, drains, canals, beaches and the collection and carting away of cyclone wastes are ongoing and are expected to be completed soon.
- (v) Repairs to street lighting, road signage and traffic lights are nearing completion.
- (vi) As regards the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is making arrangements to provide seeds to some 4,000 planters, fertilizer, compost and also assistance in land preparation through the mobilisation of field equipment. Some 200 hectares of cane plantation belonging to small planters have also been affected by erosion. The Mauritius Cane Industry Authority would provide assistance to the small cane planters for putting up new plantations. The Development Bank of Mauritius would provide loan facilities to assist sugar cane, vegetable, fruit and flower planters and hydroponic growers whose crops have been damaged. The Agricultural Marketing Board would import vegetables as from this week, namely beans, carrots and cauliflowers to palliate the shortage.

As regards Rodrigues, 20% of the electricity network which was affected has already been repaired. No major damage has been reported regarding the telephone and water networks and public infrastructure. Given that several areas had been flooded, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly would accelerate the flood mitigation measures such as the replacement of “radiers” by proper bridges and improvement of infrastructure in certain villages. Some 7.4 arpents under vegetable cultivation have been affected and assistance provided to farmers in Mauritius would be extended to Rodrigues.

\*\*\*

2. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements and the calendar of activities for the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius. The President of the Republic of India, HE Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will be the Chief Guest on that occasion.

\*\*\*

3. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Jean François Chaumière as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.

\*\*\*\*\*