

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 13 JULY 2018**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill into the National Assembly. The Bill provides for the implementation of the measures announced in Budget Speech 2018-2019 and for matters connected, consequential or incidental thereto.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands would chair a Project Monitoring and Coordination Committee to ensure the timely and effective implementation of infrastructural projects at community level announced in the 2018-2019 Budget, such as construction, upgrading of drains, secondary roads or other social/sports facilities across the island. The Committee would ensure that there is proper coordination among the various institutions prior to as well as during the implementation of projects and that relevant clearances are obtained in a timely manner and any bottlenecks are dealt with promptly.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the Monitoring Report on projects funded by the National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Foundation in the context of its First Call for Proposals and the new Policy and Guidelines to be used for the forthcoming Second Call for Proposals prepared by the Foundation. The revised policy and funding guidelines have the following objectives:

- (a) build strong partnership with the non-governmental organisations to deliver services, programmes and projects that meet the needs of vulnerable individuals, families and communities;
- (b) encourage social innovation to address emerging and persistent social needs and problems;
- (c) make provision for an outcome-oriented funding framework based on performance to ensure effectiveness and efficient funding;
- (d) promote fruitful, principle-based funding relationship with non-governmental organisations; and
- (e) foster collaboration among non-governmental organisations and other sectors in the private and public sectors.

The launching of the Second Call for Projects and the release of the Monitoring Report on the First Call for Projects would be effected on 19 July 2018.

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4. Cabinet has agreed to the grant of a building site lease over a plot of State land at Marie Jeannie, Rose Belle to 36 families who are being relocated from Mare Chicose, given that the project of Landfill at Mare Chicose requires a buffer zone of one kilometre where sensitive activities are not allowed.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the World Finance Conference 2018, organised by the University of Technology, Mauritius in association with the World Finance Conference, would be held from 25 to 27 July 2018. The aim of the Conference is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for academics, industry, professionals and government officials in the financial sector. It would be an ideal platform for scholars to share ideas and research in the field of Finance, promote capacity research and give opportunities for academics to innovate and participate in the Conference. Some 220 foreign delegates would participate in the Conference.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that according to the last monthly report published by the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, 84,345 tourists visited Mauritius in the month of June 2018 as compared to 78,188 in June 2017, i.e., an increase of 7.9%. During the period January to June 2018, 646,865 tourists visited Mauritius as compared to 625,859 for the same period in 2017, i.e., an increase of 3.4%. Growth has been registered in arrivals from United Kingdom (+9.7%), France (+11.9%), Italy (+11.8%), South Africa (+48.5%), Saudi Arabia (+855.6%), Czech Republic (+45.2%); Poland (+41.6%) and Netherlands (+19.9%). Tourism earnings for the period January to April 2018 attained Rs24.1 billion, i.e., an increase of 15.3% over the same period for the year 2017.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reform to Mauritania where he participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (Summit). The theme of the Summit was "*Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation*". The following main reports were presented to the Summit and decisions adopted accordingly –

(a) Peace and Security Issues

The state of peace and security on the continent was largely discussed by the Assembly. The Summit noted the intervention of the Attorney General in the debates and, on his request, agreed that the issue of Maritime Security would be included in future reports of the Peace and Security Council.

(b) Implementation of the AU Institutional Reform

The Assembly decided to convene a Retreat of the Executive Council and hold an Extraordinary Summit in November 2018 to focus on the Reform Agenda.

(c) The African Common Position on Post 2020

The Summit decided that there should be further consultations to harmonise positions within Africa and requested for the postponement of negotiations with the EU.

(d) Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly adopted five Services priority sectors, namely transport, communication, financial, tourism and business services, as well as nine Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods, and three Annexes to the Protocol on Rules of Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to South Africa where she attended the 2018 Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs. The Meeting of Ministers considered various issues and some of the major decisions taken were –

- (a) the draft SADC Regional Gender Based Violence Strategy and Framework for Action (2019-2030) which is expected to provide a common platform of guidance for Member States to address Gender Based Violence was approved;
- (b) Member States were urged, inter alia, to continuously intensify their advocacy and lobbying campaigns on gender parity as per the provisions of the Protocol and advocate for gender sensitive electoral systems; and
- (c) the SADC Secretariat was requested to continue to promote and sustain a working environment that is sensitive to gender parity.

In the margins of the Meeting, the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare visited the Gender Based Violence Command Centre of Pretoria in view of the proposed setting up of a similar system in Mauritius to enhance the assistance provided to victims of domestic violence. She discussed the possibility for the Department of Social Development and International Relations of South Africa to assist the Ministry in the setting up of the Centre.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with 'Comité d'Organisation des 10èmes Jeux des Iles de L'Océan Indien (COJI) 2019' and Club Maurice would organise a sports carnival on 19 July 2018 at Quatre Bornes, that would start the 365 days' countdown for the Indian Ocean Islands Games which would be held from 19 to 28 July 2019 in Mauritius.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the Professional Land Surveyors' Council with Mr Fadil Mohammad Koodaruth as Chairperson.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the -

- (a) Board of the University of Technology, Mauritius with Mr Deonanan Raj Makoond as President;
- (b) Executive Council of the Hindi-Speaking Union with Mr Ramess Ramburn as President;
- (c) Executive Council of the Marathi-Speaking Union with Dr Beedun Abba as President;
- (d) Executive Council of the Telugu-Speaking Union with Dr Ramsamy Appadoo as President; and
- (e) National Women's Council with Mrs Mohini Bali, Head Gender Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare as Chairperson.

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