

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 NOVEMBER 2020

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Maritime Zones (Territorial Sea Outer Limit Lines) Regulations 2020 being promulgated under the Maritime Zones Act, to provide for the delineation of the outer limit lines of the territorial sea of the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The outer limit of the territorial sea of Mauritius off the coast of the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues is defined by geodesic lines and arcs joining consecutive points in a sequence. Geodesic lines and all points defined by geographic coordinates are based on the World Geodetic System 1984.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence. The National Strategy Document focuses on four Sub-strategies, namely –

- (a) change societal norms and beliefs that are against principles of gender equality and equity;
- (b) priority support services for survivors while holding perpetrators accountable;
- (c) identify and redress discriminatory practices that perpetuate gender based violence; and
- (d) coordinated monitoring and evaluation.

The overall vision of the National Strategy is to eliminate Gender Based Violence. A three-tiered mechanism would be set up to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan, namely the High Level Committee on Gender Based Violence, the National Steering Committee on Gender Based Violence and four Technical Working Groups aligned with the four Sub-strategies.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) of Mauritius and *L'Autorité Nationale de Régulation des Technologies de l'information et de la Communication* of the Union of Comoros with a view to strengthening the cooperation between the two regulatory bodies. The mutual benefits of this cooperation would be, inter alia, –

- (a) an enhanced comparative analyses of sectoral and regulatory policies in the Electronic Communication Sector;
- (b) the joint organisation of seminars, workshops in the respective areas of intervention of the parties or one of them;

- (c) common training courses for the staff of the parties;
- (d) availability of expert assistance within the framework of the competences of the parties;
- (e) exchange of documents and information relating to the fields of electronic communications; and
- (f) sharing of experience in the field of cybersecurity.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development would promulgate the following Regulations –

- (a) Customs Tariff (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 5) Regulations 2020;
- (b) Customs (Export to China) Regulations 2020;
- (c) Customs (Movement Certificate EUR 1) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020; and
- (d) Excise (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 5) Regulations 2020.

The Regulations provide mainly for the implementation of the tariff liberalisation commitments of Mauritius under the Free Trade Agreement with China, the Economic Partnership Agreement with the United Kingdom and changes in the duty free entitlement of passengers in respect of spirits and wine.

5. Cabinet has taken note that in the context of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims to be commemorated on 15 November 2020, the Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail would organise a Road Safety Week from 16 to 21 November 2020. The following activities would, inter alia, be organised –

- (a) a Road Safety Day at Petite Rivière Government School on 16 November 2020;
- (b) talks on road safety issues conducted on the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation by the Police, Officers from the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit and the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service;
- (c) a Pacific March on Road Safety in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms on 18 November 2020 from Champ de Mars to *Le Jardin de la Compagnie*; and
- (d) a Road Safety Day at the Society for the Welfare of the Deaf on 19 November 2020.

Several NGOs and private sector organisations have also been invited to participate in the event.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the alarming situation of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing across the world. With regard to Mauritius, no local case has been recorded since 26 April 2020. Currently, there were 24 imported active cases of COVID-19 in Mauritius. As at 06 November 2020, 453 cases of COVID-19 had been registered in Mauritius. The public should continue to observe strict sanitary precautions in order to avoid any importation or resurgence of COVID-19 in the country.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Association of Ayurvedic Physicians would commemorate the Ayurveda Day on 12 November 2020 at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), Phoenix, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the High Commission of India. The main objective of the commemoration of the Ayurveda Day is to, inter-alia, increase public awareness about Ayurveda. In this connection, various activities would be organised to sensitise the general public on the benefits of Ayurveda and its contribution in building a healthier society, including –

- (a) display of medicinal plants/spices and services by the Ayurvedic Unit of the Ministry of Health and Wellness at the IGCIC;
- (b) radio/television programmes about Ayurveda and Ayurvedic Services provided by the Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- (c) opening of the Ayurvedic Medicinal Garden and free distribution of medicinal plants to the public at the Ayurvedic Unit of Lady Sushil Ramgoolam Medi Clinic, Belvédère; and
- (d) distribution of flyers on Ayurvedic diet for diabetes, obesity and hypertension to the public.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the release of the “Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2019”. The Yearbook provides data on population trends and vital rates, family planning and health service points for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The salient features of the 2019 Yearbook are, inter alia, -

- (a) the Island of Mauritius has registered a negative population growth rate of -0.04 percent in 2019 for the first time since post-independence;
- (b) the population of Mauritius is ageing due to sustained low fertility level and increasing life expectancy, which in turn is resulting in lower proportion of children and higher proportion of elders in the population;
- (c) Mauritius is also witnessing a progressive ageing of its older population; and
- (d) life expectancy at birth has improved considerably and is expected to improve further over the years.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation to Rodrigues. The main objectives of the visit were -

- (a) to review the activities of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council in Rodrigues and discuss enhanced partnership between the Council and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly; and
- (b) to launch a new stamp and First Day Cover in the context of World Post Day which is celebrated on 09 October each year.

During his visit, the Minister met the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues and the Commissioner for Information Technology and Communications with whom he discussed main areas of collaboration. He also chaired a meeting with representatives of all Commissions in Rodrigues to review the activities of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council in Rodrigues since 2011. The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council would put in place a special Research and Innovation scheme for Rodrigues.

10 Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to Rodrigues. The following activities were organised -

- (a) a consultative workshop was held with representatives of Government Departments to discuss amendments to be brought to the Protection from Domestic Violence Act;
- (b) a presentation of the Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS), a computerised system for the registration of reported cases of domestic violence was made to representatives of the Commission and the Police and the benefits thereof were highlighted. The DOVIS would be extended to Rodrigues; and
- (c) site visits were effected to women entrepreneurs operating in the sectors of Food/Spices, Handicraft and Candle Making/Rattan work respectively.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Muslim Family Council with Mr Mohamed Irsad Cassam Lualloo as part-time Chairperson.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Board. The part-time Chairperson would be appointed by the Board from among its members.
