

CABINET DECISIONS – 09 OCTOBER 2020

1. Cabinet has taken note that the Prime Minister would proceed on an official visit to Rodrigues on 09 October 2020 and return on 13 October 2020. The main purpose of the visit is to attend the Official Ceremony marking the 18th Anniversary of the autonomy of Rodrigues on 12 October 2020. Other activities would also be organised during his visit.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of a Regulatory Review exercise of the business environment in Mauritius. The exercise is being funded by the European Union. The Regulatory Review exercise has the following three objectives –

- (a) an overall assessment of the enabling business environment in Mauritius to provide recommendations to improve the general business climate;
- (b) a review of the regulatory framework with regard to the licensing requirements, institutional arrangement, monitoring and enforcement to operate a business in the four key sectors of the economy, namely Land Use and Construction, Trade and Logistics, Tourism, Healthcare and Lifesciences; and
- (c) a proposal for a model which best fits Mauritius for the setting up of a Single Licensing Agency under the Economic Development Board as announced in Budget Speech 2018/2019.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister would be set up to ensure a coordinated approach to deliver the project. Sub-committees focusing on each sector would also be set up to support and report progress to the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

3. Cabinet has taken note that sensitisation campaigns would be launched by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, in line with the measure announced in the Government Programme 2020-2024 to make Mauritius a plastic free country. To ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the Environment Protection Regulations, a mass sensitisation campaign would be undertaken as from 15 October 2020 up to April 2021 whereby, information regarding the banned products, alternatives available and penalty for offences under the Regulations would be widely disseminated. The launching would be held at the Municipal City Council of Port Louis on 15 October 2020.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the launching of the Request for Proposals for the development and operation of a modern Urban Terminal at Vacoas. The Urban Terminal would act as a major transport interchange at one of the most strategic locations of the Vacoas town centre. It is expected to be an iconic complex accommodating a mixed-use development, including

shops, food court, restaurants, offices, entertainment and leisure activities, and residential apartments.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Commitment Agreement between Gavi Alliance and the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. The Committed Agreement provides for the procurement of the vaccines for 20 percent of the population, estimated at 260,000 persons. These vaccines would be administered to target groups, namely the elderly people with co-morbidities and the healthcare workers in the first instance.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Wellness would promulgate Regulations under Dental Council Act to include the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik, India, in the recognised list of institutions of the Council for the purpose of registration.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of the Triplicate Prescription Form for Psychotropic Drugs, under Schedule III of the Dangerous Drug Act, for the private sector. The report of the Commission of Inquiry on Drug Trafficking has recommended, among others, that in order to facilitate the work of pharmacists, the Pharmacy Board in collaboration with the Medical Council must prepare a uniform prescription form with the required information printed on it, namely the name of the doctor, address, phone number, Medical Business Registration number, name of patient, age, profession, residence and drugs prescribed.

Cabinet has also taken note that there was currently a control mechanism in place for the issue of prescriptions for Psychotropic Drugs in the public sector.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the annual Health Statistics Report for the year 2019 for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues which has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The Report contains information on population and vital statistics, health infrastructures, health personnel, maternal and child health, notifiable diseases, private health institutions, morbidity, infant and child mortality, mortality (all ages), and other services. The Health Statistics Report 2019 provides vital information for the monitoring of the health of the population and enables the Ministry of Health and Wellness to improve service delivery.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing worldwide and in the region. As at 09 October 2020, 398 cases of COVID-19 had been registered in Mauritius. The last local case was registered on 26 April 2020.

As at 09 October 2020, there were 30 imported active cases of COVID-19 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.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Extension of Net Fishing Season) Regulations 2020 had been promulgated under the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act with a view to extending the net fishing season for 2020 for the period 01 October to 10 October 2020.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the participation of the Republic of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System Indian Ocean Wave Exercise 2020 (IOWave20) scheduled for 20 October 2020. The aim of the IOWave20 Exercise is to simulate a situation of tsunami in the Indian Ocean countries. This would require the National Tsunami Warning Centres and the National and Local Disaster Management Offices in each country to activate their Standard Operating Procedures. The IOWave20 Exercise is also meant to enhance tsunami preparedness at community level as well as to strengthen coordination throughout the region and evaluate response capabilities of the participating countries. Seven Local Authorities in the coastal regions and the islands of Rodrigues and Agalega would participate with the aim of testing the communication at national and local Levels and also enhancing tsunami preparedness at community level as soon as the Mauritius Meteorological Services would receive the notification message from the Tsunami Service Provider.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the participation of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management in the Virtual Plenary Session of the 15th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. The theme of the inaugural session was “New Dimensions of India-Africa Partnership in Post COVID-19 World Order”. During his intervention, the Vice-Prime Minister stressed on the need for African countries to have a balanced supply chain, ensure food security and diversified export markets and also highlighted the need to pursue development of regional value chains. The Minister of External Affairs of India stated that India promises to be Africa’s most steadfast partner and highlighted that the Government of India had already undertaken 194 development projects in 37 African countries and 77 more projects in 29 countries were in the pipeline. These projects were in areas such as ICT, water, agriculture and infrastructure development.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the re-election of former Justice Dheerujlall B. Seetulsingh to the Human Rights Council (HRC) Advisory Committee on 7 October 2020 in Geneva during the 45th session of the Human Rights Council. The HRC Advisory Committee is

composed of 18 independent experts from different professional backgrounds representing the various regions of the world. Experts are nominated by Governments and elected by the 47 Members of the Human Rights Council.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Agalega Island Council, with Mr Gino Alfred, an Agalean, as Chairperson.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Hearing Committee of the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board, with Mrs Ni'mah Rojubally, Barrister as Chairperson.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, with Mrs Dhanita Ramdharee, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, as Chairperson.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Mauritius Meat Authority, with Mr Zaid Zoubere Heera as Chairperson.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden, with Mr Avinash Hallooman as Chairperson.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund Board, with Mr Vishnooduth Hujoory as Chairperson.
