

CABINET DECISIONS – 10 JULY 2020

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Criminal Code to criminalise, inter alia, the production or distribution of an article, an object or a document that conveys misleading information about, or misrepresents, the sovereignty of Mauritius over any part of its territory.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Courts (Amendment) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the Courts Act for –

- (a) the setting up, within the Supreme Court, of a Financial Crimes Division and a Land Division;
- (b) the setting up, within the Intermediate Court, of a Financial Crimes Division; and
- (c) enabling the Chief Justice to set up, within the Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court, such other divisions as he thinks fit for the despatch of civil business and criminal business.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Mon Choisy-Cap Malheureux Road Overhead Pedestrian Bridge (Authorised Construction) Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to authorise Merville Ltd to construct an overhead pedestrian bridge across the Mon Choisy-Cap Malheureux Road (B13 Road) in the context of a development project under the Invest Hotel Scheme.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development would promulgate the Freeport (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2020 in order to further promote freeport trade and to position Mauritius as a logistics, marketing and distribution hub in the region. Two new Freeport zones are being declared at RicheTerre.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG) conducting nine reviews, in Ministries and Departments, for period July to December 2020, in line with the recent measures announced in the Budget Speech 2020/2021, where emphasis has been laid on the need to improve the management of public funds to ensure its sustainability.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training making Regulations with a view to giving an extension to the Redundancy Board to complete its proceedings by 31 August 2020, at latest, in view of the fact that the Redundancy Board could not operate after its setting up due to the confinement period.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements being made for the temporary relocation of existing amenities, namely at Quatre-Bornes and Curepipe, in view of the implementation of the Urban Terminal Projects.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the actions being taken by the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training in the context of manpower planning for the construction sector. For the years 2016-2019, around 5,000 trainees have been trained by the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) in various areas of the construction industry. The MITD would conduct a Tracer Study and find out the number of persons available for employment. The Ministry would proceed with the Recognition of Prior Learning in collaboration with MITD and the Mauritius Qualifications Authority.

The MITD and the Human Resource Development Council would also mount short courses under the National Skills Development Programme for all jobseekers willing to enter the construction industry. Employers in the construction sector would be invited to participate in the Sectoral Skills Development Scheme for upskilling of existing workers.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the policy recommendations made in the National Population Policy (2019-2030) which has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and with the technical assistance of the United Nations Population Fund. The National Population Policy makes an assessment of the past, present and future population trends of Mauritius and analyses the social demographic transitions of Mauritius from high levels of fertility and mortality in the 1950s to low mortality and fertility levels at present. The linkages between population dynamics, quality of life and sustainable development are also analysed.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness would hold a workshop on 13 July 2020, in the context of World Population Day, with relevant stakeholders to disseminate the National Population Policy.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up under the chair of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology to look into the policy recommendations and work an Implementation Plan.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised to mark World Population Day 2020, celebrated on 11 July, including –

- (a) a two-day workshop for youth and service providers by the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- (b) radio and TV programmes to sensitise the community on the issues of women and girls' health; and
- (c) electronic display of the theme for this year: **'Putting the breaks on COVID-19: how to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now'** at all Municipal Councils.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the status of implementation of activities under the SWITCH Africa Green project. The SWITCH Africa Green project is a partnership developed and funded by the European Union to support African countries in their transition to an inclusive green economy and in promoting a shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns and practices. Three sectors of intervention were identified in 2014 for Mauritius, namely Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the National Blood Advisory Committee with Dr Rajendranath Goordoyal, Regional Health Director, as Chairperson.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –

- (a) the Clinical Research Regulatory Council with Dr Pierrot Chitson, Private Consultant Physician as Chairperson;
- (b) the Ethics Committee with Mr Dinay Reetoo, Principal State Counsel as Chairperson; and
- (c) the Pharmacovigilance Committee with Dr Teewaree Roupesh Jaggeshar, Specialist/Senior Specialist General Medicine as Chairperson.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Mauritius Museums Council with Mr Somduth Dulthumun as Chairperson.
