

CABINET DECISIONS – 15 MAY 2020

1. Cabinet has taken note of the situation pertaining to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the measures taken to contain the pandemic, namely –

- (a) the last positive case was detected on 26 April 2020;
- (b) as at 14 May 2020, out of 24,608 PCR tests carried out, 332 persons had been tested positive;
- (c) as at 14 May 2020, 58,706 Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 had been carried out;
- (d) as at 14 May 2020, there was no patient under treatment and the number of persons successfully treated was 322;
- (e) from 30 April to 14 May 2020, 2,054 patients have attended the COVID-19 Testing Centres in the Regional Hospitals and have been tested for COVID-19; and
- (f) the new COVID Testing Centres at J. Nehru Hospital and Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital are operational.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail would make the Road Traffic (COVID-19 Sanitary Measures) Regulations 2020 and the Light Rail (COVID-19 Sanitary Measures) Regulations 2020 for commuters to strictly adhere to sanitary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Regulations would cater, inter alia, for physical distancing to be observed in public transport as well as the wearing of face masks by commuters when travelling by public transport.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Wellness would make the Prevention of Resurgence and Further Spread of Epidemic Disease (COVID-19) Regulations 2020. The objective of these Regulations is to ensure that the sanitary measures shall be observed with a view to preventing resurgence and further spread of COVID-19. The Regulations shall come into operation as from 17 May 2020.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Tourism Authority and the Beach Authority would disseminate a series of recommendations on sanitary measures to the economic operators in the tourism sector for the resumption of their activities. Once the different economic operators resume their activities, the Tourism Authority and the Beach Authority would carry out regular monitoring and inspections to ensure that the recommended sanitary measures were being adhered to with a view to maintaining a safe environment for all tourism stakeholders.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the revised programme of youth activities following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the proposed programmes/activities are to empower the youth through training, consolidate awareness on substance abuse, strengthen family ties, promote volunteering and provide psychosocial support and counselling to the young people. The programmes/activities include –

- (a) home-based participation and online training for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Programme;
- (b) online psychosocial support and counselling;
- (c) Infoclip competition on the ill-effects of smoking;
- (d) online training courses on youth entrepreneurship, National Youth Civic Service, kitchen gardening, first aid, waterwise education and life skills education;
- (e) *Zenes Montre To Talan 2020 – depi lakaz*;
- (f) virtual Inter-Youth Centre Family Quiz Competition; and
- (g) online Treasure Hunt and online Youth Concert.

6. Cabinet has taken note of the proposed resumption of the first phase of activities in the construction industry. All contractors would have to implement a site hygiene protocol in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Wellness guidelines and sanitary requirements should be strictly adhered to.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the Post COVID-19 Action Plan 2020 for the Creative and Heritage Sectors in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to stimulate artistic, creative and the cultural heritage industries. The Action Plan would cater for the immediate needs of different players in the artistic field through the use of modern technology and digital platforms for the implementation of innovative projects.

8. Cabinet has taken note that registered artisanal fishers for basket trap, line and net fishing were being allowed to go for shipping trips as from 15 May 2020. However, fishing activities would have to be carried out under strict conditions.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the Jitsi Meet Conferencing Platform for Public Officials, to facilitate and sustain Government's continued operations through online meetings and decision making. Jitsi Meet Conferencing Platform is the leading open source conferencing platform offering all the main features for multi-party online meetings on multiple devices such as laptops and smartphones.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Medical Negligence Standing Committee to carry out preliminary investigations into all cases of alleged medical negligence at the level of public health institutions before referring the matter to the relevant regulatory body. The objective of the Standing Committee is to ensure that enquiries are not unduly delayed.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation in the Webinar "Online Safety and Security during COVID-19" organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Office of the UN Under-Secretary General/Special Adviser on Digital Cooperation. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the ITU and the Office of the UN Under Secretary-General/Special Adviser on Digital Cooperation are organising jointly, on a weekly basis, a series of online dialogues on "Digital Cooperation during COVID-19 and beyond". The aim of these dialogues is to build a community to share actionable ideas, initiatives and solutions with a view to coming up with valuable inputs to the forthcoming UN Secretary-General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation scheduled to be launched by the end of May 2020. The Minister was one of the speakers at the Webinar on the theme "Online Safety and Security during COVID". The focus of this online dialogue was on specific cybersecurity challenges which countries are facing during the COVID-19 crisis, and strategies and tactics which have been deployed to counter malicious use of the internet and to ensure safer and secure access to digital service, as well as protect younger generations from online potential threats.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training in the teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government with Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union. The main purposes of the meeting were to -

- (a) apprise the Chairpersons of the RECs of the AU about the actions and initiatives undertaken by the AU in response to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic in the continent;
- (b) discuss joint continental action to combat the spread of the coronavirus and mitigate its economic impact on the continent; and
- (c) provide a platform for the Chairpersons of the RECs to brief the Bureau about regional measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) briefed the meeting on the initiatives undertaken by the AUC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which comprised steps taken to implement AU COVID-19 strategy, including the establishment of task forces of African Ministers of Health, Finance and Transport from all AU regions, as well as the operationalisation of the AU COVID-19 Solidarity Fund. The meeting also took note of the measures taken by each Member State in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in the webinar of African Ministers for Gender and Women's Affairs, Heads of Regional Economic Communities and other key partners, hosted by the UN Women, the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to hold consultations on mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on African women and girls. The Minister shared with participants a proposed strategic response for a gender transformative post-COVID-19 recovery framework. She stressed on the need for collaborative efforts, both on the national and international fronts, to have a common post-COVID-19 approach and a special post-COVID-19 country recovery fund from the international agencies to increase the chances of success for countries and the continent as a whole.

14. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the International Day of Families observed on 15 May, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has retained the theme "*Lafors nou fami se lafors nou pei*". In view of the outbreak of COVID-19, no event would be organised this year. However, a sensitisation campaign would be held on the shared roles and responsibilities of family members within the home setting. The purpose of this endeavour is to sensitise the population on the importance of the family and for reinforcing family ties.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the contract of employment of Mr Arvind Bundhun, as Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority would be renewed for a period of two years with effect from 01 June 2020.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Road Development Authority (RDA) Board with Mr Louis Joël Yves José Patron as Chairperson.
