

CABINET DECISIONS – 16 OCTOBER 2020

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Climate Change Bill into the National Assembly. The main object of the Bill is to implement, with a view to addressing the adverse effects of climate change and developing Mauritius into a greener economy, the obligations of Mauritius under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and any other related instrument on climate change. The Bill also establishes a legal framework towards making Mauritius a climate-change resilient and low emission country.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness giving drafting instruction to the Attorney General's Office for the preparation of the Medical and Healthcare Products Bill to replace the Pharmacy Act 1983, as announced in Budget Speech 2020-2021. The proposed Bill would provide, inter alia, for the setting up of an independent National Medical and Healthcare Product Regulatory Authority, which would provide for an efficient, relevant, transparent and regulatory authority to ensure access to safe, effective and good quality medicines and medical products to the population. Its scope would be extended to include medical devices, health supplements, complementary medicines (Ayurveda and other traditional medicines), and cosmetic products besides pharmaceutical products.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail promulgating the Road Traffic (Extension of time for the validity and renewal of Licence for a Petrol Service Station or Private Petrol Station) Regulations 2020. The Regulations made under the Road Traffic Act would provide for the extension of the validity of a Petrol Service Station Licence up to 31 December 2020 and exemption from 50 percent surcharge for the renewal of Petrol Service licences in view of the exceptional situation which prevailed due to the sanitary curfew. Where permits have been renewed after 30 June 2020, the National Land Transport Authority would arrange for the refund of the 50 percent surcharge.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) (National Management System Certification Scheme) Regulations 2017 being amended. These Regulations provide the legal framework for the effective operation of various Certification Schemes. The rationale for the amendment to the Regulations is to –

- (a) include the Certification Scheme for National Good Agricultural Practices for Crop Production as per MS 184-1 Basic requirement and MS 184-2 Intermediate requirements in the Regulations;
- (b) make provision for the replacement of the Certification Scheme based on MS OHSAS 18001 by the "MS ISO 45001 - Occupational Health and Safety Management System", to be in line with developments in the area of occupational health and safety; and
- (c) include a new Certification Scheme on "MS 167 - Recommended International Code of Practice- General Principles of Food hygiene", following demand by small food operators for implementing basic food hygiene.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Licence and Fees) Regulations 2013 being amended to review the licence fees payable by foreign tuna longliners and purse seiners operating in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritius. The fees levied on foreign longliners and purse seiners would be increased. However, the increase would not concern local licensed fishing vessels, as well as foreign fishing vessels which are already operating under fishing agreements. Their fees would be reviewed upon the expiry of the agreements.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development would promulgate the following Regulations relating to procurement issues –

- (a) the Public Procurement (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020;
- (b) the Public Procurement (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 3) Regulations 2020;
- (c) the Build Operate Transfer Projects (Prescribed Threshold) Regulations 2020; and
- (d) the Public-Private Partnership (Prescribed Threshold) Regulations 2020.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of the Health and Wellness would promulgate Regulations under the Medical Council Act to include the Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, the Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University and the Lomonosov Moscow State University in the recognised list of institutions of the Council, for the purpose of registration.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Prime Minister to Rodrigues in the context of the celebrations of the 18th Anniversary of the Rodrigues Day. The Prime Minister inaugurated the Rodrigues branch of Solocal Interactive in Port Mathurin, a French-based company specialised in digital marketing and teleservices. He had a working session with the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and various issues were, inter alia, discussed, including the Technopark Project, the extension of the runway at Plaine Corail Airport and the Special Holiday Package.

The Prime Minister effected a site visit to take stock of progress of works in the Port Mathurin Drain Project which is being undertaken by the National Development Unit. He also proceeded to the testing of the first residential site of the Fibre-To-The-Home service by Mauritius Telecom. The Prime Minister attended a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the 'Monument de l'Autonomie' in Malabar and the Official Ceremony of Rodrigues Day held at Camp du Roi Stadium. He also met Mr Anicette Perrine who celebrated his 100th birthday.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) has initiated necessary action for the setting up of an additional 234 free Wi-Fi hotspots in different regions of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The new Wi-Fi hotspots, which are in addition to those that have been already installed by Mauritius Telecom, aim at providing a wider coverage of Wi-Fi accessibility in these regions. The setting up of the additional hotspots would span over a period of three years.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the operationalisation of the first Civic Amenity Centre (*dechetterie*) at La Chaumière by November 2020, thus setting the pace to moving towards a circular economy as announced in Budget Speech 2020-2021. A Civic Amenity Centre is essentially a facility whereby households and small and medium enterprises can dispose of specific types of wastes, which normally are not collected as part of the normal waste collection service. It consists of containers/bays for temporary storage of different sorted waste fractions whereby recyclers collect the 'waste' materials for further processing.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the shoreline clean-up operations underway in the east and south-east coast of Mauritius in the aftermath of the MV Wakashio oil spill.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development and Lafarge (Mauritius) Cement Ltd for the construction of ramps for persons with disabilities in public buildings. Lafarge (Mauritius) Cement Ltd would build concrete ramps with concrete handrails to facilitate access of persons with disabilities to buildings, places and offices to be identified by the two Ministries.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the opening of the Renovated Building (Phase I) of the New Cancer Hospital would be effected on 23 October 2020. The soft opening of the Renovated Building would ease, to some extent, the pressure at the Victoria Hospital as a result of limited capacity to receive patients. The National Land Transport Authority would provide shuttles from Quatre Bornes to Jumbo Phoenix, via Victoria Hospital and the New Cancer Hospital at regular intervals, for easy access to the patients and staff.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing worldwide and in the region. As at 16 October 2020, 417 cases of COVID-19 had been registered in Mauritius. The last local case was registered on 26 April 2020.

As at 16 October 2020, there were 43 imported active cases of COVID-19 in Mauritius. Strict sanitary precautions should be observed by the population in order to avoid any importation or resurgence of COVID-19 in the country.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the 3rd edition of the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering (ELECOM 2020) would be held in virtual mode, by the University of Mauritius from 25 to 27 November 2020. The Conference would address new developments on theory and practice in the fields of electrical, electronic, communications engineering and computing. Some 50 local and international professionals, academics and industry experts in the relevant fields of Electrical, Electronic and Communications Engineering and Computing/Information Technology would participate in the Conference.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the programme being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage to commemorate the 186th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers on 02 November 2020. The Official Ceremony would be held at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre (SVICC) and the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Site would be transmitted live at the SVICC.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Statutory Bodies Family Protection Fund with Mrs Chand Rye Seewooruthun, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, as Chairperson.
