

CABINET DECISIONS – 17 JULY 2020

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Real Estate Agent Authority Bill into the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Real Estate Agent Authority in order to regulate and control the business activities of real estate agents, including business activities of land promoters and property developers. The Bill has been rendered necessary with a view to -

- (a) promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in the business activities of real estate agents, including business activities of land promoters and property developers;
- (b) protecting and assisting persons engaged in real estate transactions with real estate agents, including land promoters and property developers; and
- (c) ensuring further compliance with recommended international best practices and norms for combatting money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation.

Accordingly, the Authority will –

- (a) register real estate agents, including land promoters and property developers;
- (b) exercise and maintain discipline in the business activities of real estate agents, including business activities of land promoters and property developers; and
- (c) cooperate with the Financial Intelligence Unit under the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act and other relevant public sector agencies to assist in the detection and prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation within the real estate sector.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the situation pertaining to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the measures being taken to contain the pandemic and avoid any resurgence. No local case has been detected in Mauritius since 26 April 2020 and there are two active imported cases who are currently under treatment at the New ENT Hospital.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Declaration of Assets (Extension of Time During COVID-19 Period) Regulations 2020. The Regulations would extend the time frame imposed under the Declaration of Assets Act to allow declarants to fulfil their legal obligations.

4. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being made to the Road Traffic legislation to provide for the following –

- (a) extension of the validity period of the licence from March 2021 to March 2026 for holders of a provisional driving licence for auto/motorcycles obtained prior to March 2018;
- (b) changes in the driving tests of competence for autocycles;
- (c) registration of electric cycles below 250 watts in the Police Bicycle Index; and
- (d) classification of the electric motorcycles in the existing types of motorcycles according to different power output for the issue of driving licences.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Insolvency (Extension of Time during COVID-19 Period) Regulations 2020 would be promulgated by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. The Regulations are being made in the context of the COVID-19 period to provide for extension of time for the Administrator to convene a watershed meeting and for the deed administrator to execute the Deed of Company Arrangement when a company is facing insolvency.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development would promulgate the Construction Industry Development Board (Registration of Consultants and Contractors) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 to enable Joint Venture Contractors undertake construction works of higher contract values and the Construction Industry Development Board (Appeal Fee) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the payment of an allowance under the Wage Assistance Scheme and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme to workers and self-employed individuals in the tourism sector for the month of July 2020.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the Report of the High Level Committee of Experts to review the Law Practitioners Act and other Legal Enactments concerning the Legal Profession in Mauritius being made public for comments from all stakeholders.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the status of projects undertaken to mitigate flood in regions that have been determined and certified as high risk and flood-prone by the Land Drainage Authority as at 30 June 2020. Following the vulnerability assessment of the regions, the Land Drainage Authority has, as at 30 June 2020, determined and certified 36 areas as high risk and flood-prone where life or the quality of life or environment may be seriously compromised in the event of a downpour.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the funding by the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) of 26 projects aimed at improving and accelerating the Government's response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and eventually contribute to counter the impact thereof as well as planning beyond this deadly scourge. The MRIC launched a Special Call for Proposals on 4 April 2020 inviting entrepreneurs, academics, researchers, enterprises and start-ups to come up with short and medium-term projects aimed at helping the country to deal with the challenges posed by this unprecedented situation, both on the economic and social fronts. Seven out of the 26 projects relate to the area of Social and Policy measures and the remaining ones relate to Technology-based products and services. The Council would organise an event on 30 July 2020 and the project awardees would be invited to present their proposals and to elaborate on the intended outcomes and benefits thereof.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the categorisation of National Sports Federations and Sports Organisations in order to optimise the disbursement of Government grants. National Sports Federations and Sports Organisations for both Olympic and non-Olympic sports disciplines are being categorised, level-wise, according to their performance at international benchmark competitions. The categories, in order of precedence, are as follows –

- (a) World;
- (b) Inter-Continental;
- (c) Continental; and
- (d) Regional.

Additionally, the National Sports Federations and Sports Organisations would be categorised under one of these four categories based on the type of sports discipline that they represent, namely Individual sport, Combat sport, Racket sport and Team sport.

National Sports Federations and Sports Organisations would be provided with a baseline funding for the development and promotion of their respective disciplines locally. The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation would conduct an annual review of the categorisation based on the performance of the National Sports Federations and Sports Organisations.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the price of live cattle for the forthcoming Eid-UI-Adha festival has been fixed at Rs136.50 per kilo.

13. Cabinet has agreed to postpone the carrying out of the Housing and Population Census to the year 2022 instead of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and the European Union (EU) Ambassador recently co-chaired the 3rd High Level EU-Mauritius Policy Dialogue on Gender. The agenda of this year's High Level Policy Dialogue was -

- (a) key recommendations of the Vice President of CEDAW for concrete actions to be taken by Government; and
- (b) social, economic and political measures to address Gender-Based Violence to attain gender equality

The Policy Dialogue took stock of the implementation of the EU-Mauritius partnership for gender equality, with emphasis on protecting women against violence especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of systemic improvements and interventions were highlighted. An Observatory on Gender-Based Violence would be set up to generate accurate statistics. The Gender Focal Points from several Ministries intervened to state the progress made in achieving Gender Equality in relation with the Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 - Achieve Gender Equality and empower all Women and Girls, in their respective Ministries.

15. Cabinet has taken note that the Public Officers' Welfare Council (POWC) would hold the 27th Edition of the Civil Service Kermesse on Sunday 06 December 2020 at the Gymkhana Grounds, Vacoas.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Fishermen Welfare Fund with Mr Kistnensamy Beemadoo as Chairperson.
