

**CABINET DECISIONS – 22 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 and avoid any resurgence, namely –
- (a) as at 21 May 2020, out of 26,339 PCR tests carried out, 332 persons had been tested positive;
  - (b) as at 21 May 2020, 72,120 Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 had been carried out; and
  - (c) four new COVID-19 Testing Centres are operational, namely at J. Nehru Hospital, Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital, SSRN Hospital and Victoria Hospital.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security would lift the temporary ban on importation of live animals and fish which was imposed in March 2020 following the outbreak of COVID-19, following the advice of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the support measures that the Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail would implement through the National Land Transport Authority, for holders of Public Service Vehicles Licence (Contract) in the prevailing COVID-19 situation.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Tourism held dedicated meetings with stakeholders of the tourism industry to take stock of the situation in the prevailing confinement period as well as their proposals for the resumption of tourism activities post COVID-19. A common theme that emerged from the discussions held was the importance of the destination moving towards a green tourism industry and adopting environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices. All tourism stakeholders shared the view that a new destination branding would be imperative to maintain Mauritius as an attractive tourist destination.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of the stock position of drugs, medical disposables and biomedical equipment available at the level of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and of the arrangements being made for the procurement of these items to ensure that there is adequate stock level at all times for the effective and efficient delivery of treatment and care to all patients attending public health institutions.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation has been granted the full licence to function as the National Award Operator for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award programme for a further period of six years ending 30 December 2025. Since the rebranding of the Award Programme in 2012, all participating organisations have to be licensed by the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation to be able to run the Award Programme. Mauritius was the first among the African countries to obtain a full licence for period 2013 to 2019.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Health and Wellness in the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly by video conferencing. The main item of the Agenda was a Resolution on "COVID-19 Response". The Minister made a statement at the Assembly, on the experience and status on COVID-19 in Mauritius and highlighted the measures taken by the Government to stop the spread of the disease. The Assembly elected ten new members entitled to serve on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO). The draft Resolution entitled "COVID-19 Response" prepared by the European Union was subjected to extensive consultation and negotiations with Member States. It recalls the constitutional mandate of WHO to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and recognises its key leadership role within the broader UN response and the importance of strengthened multilateral cooperation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its extensive negative impact.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Central Water Board with Mr Geean Mahadeea as Chairperson.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the constitution of the COVID-19 Projects Development Committee with the Financial Secretary as Chairperson.

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