

CABINET DECISIONS – 26 JUNE 2020

1. Cabinet has taken note that a Task Force would be chaired by the Prime Minister to look into the construction of the 12,000 social housing units across the whole island, as announced in the Budget Speech 2020/2021.

2. Cabinet has taken note that with regard to travelling within the Republic of Mauritius, no restrictions except wearing of masks, would be imposed on Mauritians proceeding to Rodrigues or Agalega as from 01 July 2020. The modalities are being worked out by Air Mauritius.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management would make Regulations under the Local Government Act to extend the timeframe for the payment of trade fees at the Corporate and Business Registration Department (CBRD) for the financial year 2019/20 up to 31 August 2020, given that most businesses have not been working during the confinement period and in order to avoid possible overcrowding at counters of the CBRD.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection would review the Steel Bars and Steel Wires (Mauritian Standard Specifications) Regulations 1988 so as to align these Regulations with the latest standards for steel bars, steel wires and steel fabrics. Henceforth, all steel bars, steel wires and steel fabrics used in Mauritius, including for projects under G2G Agreements, would have to comply with the applicable standards.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism would promulgate the Beach Authority (Traders' Licence) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. The Beach Authority (Traders' Licence) Regulations of 2004 are being amended with a view to exempting the holder of a licence, issued prior to June 2020, from payment of the licence fee, in respect of any licence for the years ending 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022, as announced in Budget Speech 2020/2021.

6. Cabinet has agreed that the allowance payable for the month of June 2020 under the Wage Assistance Scheme and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme to Workers and self-employed individuals in the tourism sector and all those whose work premises or business operations had to remain closed after the lifting of the curfew be extended to the undermentioned businesses –

- (a) restaurants, pubs, tables d'hôte holding a tourist enterprise licence;
- (b) contract car businesses, event management companies; and
- (c) attractions, amusement parks, natural sites and museums.

This extension would apply to the above businesses whose turnover had fallen by more than 50 percent in June 2020 as compared to the corresponding turnover in June 2019. This criterion would not apply to an enterprise which had been set up after June 2019.

7. Cabinet has agreed to –

- (a) the importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles being restricted to only duly registered authorised dealers; and
- (b) the current restriction on the issue of new dealers' licences in importation and sale of second-hand motor vehicles being extended by a further period of two years up to 30 June 2022.

The Consumer Protection (Importation and Sale of Second-hand Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2004 and the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 would be amended, accordingly.

8. Cabinet has taken note that on 23 June 2020, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued a statement to the effect that "Hajj 2020" would be restricted solely to people residing presently in Saudi Arabia. The Islamic Cultural Centre has already issued a Press Communiqué to relay the information to the public.

9. Cabinet has taken note that Mr Keshoe Parsad Matadeen, GCSK, former Chief Justice, has been nominated to sit on the SADC Electoral Advisory Council. The main objective of the Council is to advise SADC on issues pertaining to elections and the enhancement of democracy and good governance.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the composition of the Standing Committee on Medical Negligence with M^e L. Nuckchady, Barrister at Law as Chairperson. The Committee would conduct preliminary investigations only into alleged medical negligence at the level of public health institutions.

11. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being made to the Road Traffic (Examination of Motor Vehicles and Trailers) Regulations 2016 to provide for an increase in the examination fees, payable by owners of vehicles calling for fitness tests at the private Authorised Vehicle Examination Stations as from 01 July 2020.

12. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development would promulgate the *Institutions Agréées* (Amendment) Regulations 2020 which would designate the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd as an “*institution agréée*”. As announced in the Budget Speech 2020/2021, investment would be made through the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd to, amongst others, –

- (a) support important and viable companies in Mauritius, which are financially distressed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) assist companies geared towards a smart and innovative-driven future Mauritius; and
- (c) invest in projects of strategic national importance to the country.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the International Day of Cooperatives 2020 would be celebrated on Saturday 4 July 2020. The theme chosen for this year is “Cooperatives for Climate Action”. The Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, in collaboration with the National Cooperative College, Cooperative Federations and other stakeholders, would organise a gathering for co-operators at the National Cooperative College Auditorium at Terre Rouge on 4 July 2020. A wreath laying ceremony would also be held at the stele of cooperatives at Jardin de la Compagnie, Port-Louis, in collaboration with the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Limited.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed on 26 June, namely –

- (a) a visit to the Nenuphar Ward at Long Mountain Hospital to meet the patients at the Centre;
- (b) a sensitisation programme on the dangers of illicit drugs; and
- (c) live interventions by health professionals at peak hours on MBC radio and TV.

The theme for this year is ‘*Better knowledge for better care*’.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Sudeven Chengebroyen as General Manager of the Beach Authority.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the following Board and Committees under the Mental Health Care Act –

- (a) the Mental Health Board with Dr Paramasiven Motay, Consultant Psychiatry as Chairperson;
- (b) the Mental Health Commission with Ms Diya Beesoondoyal, Principal State Counsel as Chairperson;
- (c) the Accounts Committee with Mr Latanraj Ghoorah, Lead Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, as Chairperson; and
- (d) the Managerial Committee with Dr Deodas Rughoobur, Medical Superintendent as Chairperson.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Jean François Chaumière as Chief Executive Officer of the National Empowerment Foundation.
