

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 OCTOBER 2020

1. Cabinet has agreed to drafting instructions being given to the Attorney General's Office to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act to –

- (a) provide for the extension, up to 31 December 2021, the period up to which the Act shall continue to apply to business premises let on or before 01 July 2005;
- (b) extend the mandate of the Fair Rent Tribunal to 30 June 2021 to clear all its outstanding cases; and
- (c) provide for no new cases to be lodged at the Fair Rent Tribunal as from 01 January 2021.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping would promulgate the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form) Regulations 2020 under the Merchant Shipping Act. The Regulations would –

- (a) provide a legal framework for the safe sea transportation of harmful substances in packaged form and require that each package containing a harmful substance shall be durably marked, in an identifiable manner surviving at least 3 months' immersion in the sea, with the technical name and to indicate if the substance is a marine pollutant;
- (b) ensure that the ship carries a special list of harmful substances on board and a detailed stowage plan of harmful substances properly stowed on board;
- (c) provide for inspection of ships, verification of documentation for compliance with the transportation of harmful substances in packaged form; and
- (d) empower the Director of Shipping to investigate into suspected cases of discharge violations within the maritime zones of Mauritius, to detain such a ship, and cause proceedings to be instituted against the owner or master of the ship.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping would promulgate the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution

from Ships) Regulations 2020 under the Merchant Shipping Act. The Regulations would, inter alia, –

- (a) regulate the emission into the atmosphere of specified pollutants such as sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, ozone-depleting substances and volatile organic compounds from all Mauritius ships of 400 gross tonnage or above, wherever they may be or from any other ship within the territorial sea of Mauritius;
- (b) provide a legal framework to ensure that all ships undergo the initial, renewal, intermediate, annual or any additional surveys, as stipulated by the Convention and that appropriate certificates are issued;
- (c) ensure that the quality of fuel oil used on board for combustion meets the requirements and regulate shipboard incineration for ships within the territorial sea of Mauritius; and
- (d) ensure that a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan is kept on board following the first intermediate survey or the first renewal survey, and that consumption data collected through the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan is reported to the Director of Shipping.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Land Drainage Authority and the Mauritius Meteorological Services for an effective collaboration between the two parties for the sharing of meteorological data. The information would enable the Land Drainage Authority to carry out hydrological and hydraulic modelling, research and facilitate the formulation of policies on flood risk reduction and mitigation.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the MultiCarrier Mauritius Ltd (MCML) proceeding with the setting up of a new FM radio channel in Rodrigues instead of replacing the damaged AM Radio mast and resuming the AM Radio channel. The new FM antenna would receive and broadcast one MBC FM radio from Mauritius to Rodrigues and the 1000 watts high power FM transmitter would solve the problem of radio coverage in certain regions of Rodrigues.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the National Housing Development Co. Ltd (NHDC) would review the procedures and processes for the management of the Roof Slab and Building Materials Grant Scheme, with a view to making the system more efficient. The NHDC has initiated procedures to carry out a complete management audit of the processes and procedures in the implementation of the Scheme with a view to cutting down on delays.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the alarming situation of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing across the world. With regard to Mauritius, no local case has been recorded since 26 April

2020. Currently, there were 25 imported active cases of COVID-19 in Mauritius. As at 30 October 2020, 441 cases of COVID-19 had been registered in Mauritius. The public should continue to observe strict sanitary precautions in order to avoid any importation or resurgence of COVID-19 in the country.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the submission of the Interim Report on specific Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the CEDAW Committee for Mauritius, to the CEDAW Committee by 30 October 2020. The Interim Report has been prepared in line with the Guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by State Parties issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the initiatives being proposed in respect of 'Greening of the Public Sector', in line with the measure for a sustainable and green society announced in the Government Programme 2020-2024. A 'Greening of the Public Sector' project has been worked out for Government to set the lead and engage into the greening of organisations of the public sector. The objective of the project is to encourage public organisations to green their activities through the adoption of sustainable consumption practices in their day to day operations with respect to conservation of energy and water, waste minimisation and recycling, paperless work, adoption of sustainable technology and also adopting business practices including sustainable procurement to sustain and improve service delivery.

The services of a Consultant would be enlisted to conduct a situational analysis of the public sector with a view to formulating an Action Plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework and a Charter for the greening of the public sector. 'Green Cells' would be set up in public bodies which would be responsible to implement greening activities identified in each public body and report on progress thereon.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the organisation of a '*Festival Lang Ek Kiltir Kreol Dan Repiblik Moris*', in December 2020. The chosen theme is '*Nu viv ansam, Nu rebondi ansam*' underlying the sense of belonging and solidarity among the population, as the factors shaping our resilience as a nation and determinants of our ability to bounce back together as one people. Various events would be organised during the Festival.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the report of the Mauritius Meteorological Services in regard to the expected outlook of the summer season 2020-2021 for Mauritius and Rodrigues, including the South West Indian Ocean region. The purpose of the climate

forecast is to estimate the likelihood of a climatic event happening in the coming season and provide information on how it would vary from the normal. The report is meant to be used as general guidelines for planning purposes by stakeholders in various sectors, including water resources, agriculture, land drainage and disaster risk management. The report would be released to the general public and would also be updated by the Mauritius Meteorological Services upon availability of fresh information.

12. Cabinet has agreed to a research proposal from the University of Mauritius, entitled “Gendered Design: A Small Vertical Axis Wind Turbine for Integration into Domestic Use in Small Island Economies using Numerical Simulations and Optimization Techniques”, which had been submitted to Carleton University and the International Development Research Centre of Canada, following a call for research projects. The research programme aims at identifying, supporting and promoting a community of experts in Low and Middle-Income Countries who are engaged or interested in engaging with Gendered Design as a potential field of practice and research.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation as a Panelist in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Virtual Ministerial Roundtable discussion on the topic “The role of digital technologies during and after the COVID-19 pandemic”. The Roundtable was a unique opportunity to build on the lessons learned from previous initiatives of Member States and ITU around the topic, enabling Ministers to look into the future and explore the significance of connectivity and digital technologies in their national strategies for economic recovery.

The Minister also launched the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) Symposium, organised by AfricaCERT, the African Union Commission and the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU), a division of the National Computer Board. The objective of the Symposium was to discuss on how to detect, analyse, respond and defend against cyber incidents. Prior to the Symposium, training sessions were organised on different cybersecurity topics.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the status of training being provided to public officers by the Civil Service College, Mauritius and the new orientation for Capacity Building and Capability Development in the Public Service. Since 2015, the Civil Service College has provided face-to-face training to a total of 32,080 public officers and online training to 4,969 officers. The Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms also conducts in-house training for public officers. With a view to giving a new orientation to Capacity Building and Capability Development in the Public Service, the Ministry is working, in close collaboration with the Civil Service College, Mauritius, in the following three areas –

- (a) development of Industry Lead Certification for professionals;
- (b) adoption of a learning pattern based on Massive Open Online Courses; and

- (c) organisation of high level seminars for Top Management on the benefits and applicability of innovative technologies in the Public Service.

All Ministries/Departments would set up a Training Committee to identify training gaps and make appropriate arrangements with the Civil Service College, Mauritius, for tailor-made courses to be mounted for their officers.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity to Rodrigues in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2020. The official programme of the visit in Rodrigues comprised -

- (a) the launching of an Advanced Functional Literacy Course for 225 beneficiaries in 15 villages;
- (b) the handing over of certificates to 20 beneficiaries who have followed a training course in household wastes recycling, as well as toolkits and certificates to 40 beneficiaries under the “Empowerment of Vulnerable Women through Entrepreneurship-Capacity and Skills Building Initiatives Project”;
- (c) meetings with the Chief Commissioner and Commissioners;
- (d) the inauguration of a Children Playground at Rivière Banane constructed by the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) in collaboration with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly;
- (e) site visits to NEF beneficiaries, centenarians and to the Respite Care Centre; and
- (f) handing over of cheques to Senior Citizens Associations.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the official visit of the Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives to Rodrigues. The objective of the visit was to discuss the different facilities set up to promote entrepreneurship and cooperatives, and take cognizance of the actions to be taken for further enhancement in these sectors. The operations of SME Mauritius in Rodrigues were reviewed. Some 135 new SMEs had been registered by SME Mauritius since the start of financial year 2020-2021. The Minister had meetings with –

- (a) the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mrs. Rose Marie Franchette Gaspard-Pierre Louis and Commissioner, Mr Jean Richard Payendee and discussions focused on the empowerment of cooperators, as well as support/assistance to be granted to the cooperative societies;
- (b) the Fédération des Associations Coopératives des Eleveurs de Rodrigues Ltée and the Rodrigues Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd; and
- (c) Credit Unions in the context of the International Credit Union Day 2020.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Board of the Irrigation Authority with Mr Upadhiaya Dhuny as Chairperson.
