

CABINET DECISIONS – 27 NOVEMBER 2020

1. Cabinet has taken note that HE Mr Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles would effect a State Visit to Mauritius from Sunday 29 November to Tuesday 01 December 2020. During his visit, the President of the Republic of Seychelles would, inter alia, pay a courtesy call on HE the President of the Republic of Mauritius, have a *tête-à-tête* and working session with the Prime Minister, visit the Indian Ocean Commission Headquarters, Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site and Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Security and Crime Combating between the Seychelles Police Force and the Mauritius Police Force. The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a broad framework and mechanisms for cooperation on matters of mutual interest in relation to security and crime combating and implementation of collaborative activities to address identified issues. Areas of collaboration would include exchange of information and capacity building.

The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed in the context of the forthcoming State Visit of the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on Cooperation in Information and Communication Technology. The Memorandum of Understanding focuses on cooperation in the following main areas –

- (a) Human Resources Development in the field of ICT;
- (b) sharing of experience in broadcasting and telecommunications policy and regulatory matters;
- (c) sharing of experience in the data sharing platform InfoHighway and other e-Government solutions;
- (d) exchange of expertise in the field of Cybersecurity; and
- (e) exchange of expertise and best practices in the field of Electronic Governance.

The Memorandum of Understanding would be signed in the context of the forthcoming State Visit of the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the Tripartite Committee Meeting on salary compensation held on 25 November 2020. Employees earning up to Rs50,000 monthly would benefit from a monthly salary compensation of Rs375 effective as from 1 January 2021. The total financial implications of the salary compensation for the year are estimated at Rs2.14 billion.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the Report on the 10-Year Electric Vehicle Integration Roadmap for Mauritius prepared by EV Consult of Netherlands. In order to stimulate the transition towards electric mobility, the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities commissioned a study for a 10-year roadmap which prepares the market conditions for a sustainable integration of electric cars at a pace that strikes the right balance between cost and benefits.

The Roadmap Report addresses the current situation of mainly fossil fuel-based electricity production and planned integration of renewables over time. It also considers the vital importance of a reliable and cost-effective electricity grid on the island and possible impact of EVs on the electricity grid. The Report would enable Government to make an informed policy decision about the gradual transition to electric cars.

An Electric Vehicle Implementation and Monitoring Committee would be set up to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap/Action Plan.

6. Cabinet has agreed to an “Agreement in Principle” being issued to Mauritius Telecom Ltd in connection with a Landing Station at Baie Jacotet for the implementation of a third submarine cable linking Mauritius to South Africa and, by extension, to the whole world. The submarine cable would be a 4 fibre pair cable, with the latest state-of-the art technology which gives a capacity of 18 Terabit per second (Tbps) per fibre pair. It would be approximately 3200 kms in length, and would be laid partly in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius, followed by most of its length in international waters and the remaining part in the waters of South Africa. The project is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2023.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security would promulgate the Cane (Specification of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, under the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority Act, to enable the release of two new sugar cane varieties, namely the M 64 and M 65. These two varieties are high yielding and would contribute in boosting our national production level as well as provide the country with enough bagasse for cogeneration.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development would promulgate the Gambling Regulatory Authority Appeal Committee (Decisions of Racing Stewards) Regulations 2020 under the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act. The setting up of the Gambling Regulatory Authority Appeal Committee was announced in the 2019-2020 Budget Speech. The Regulations would lay down the governance and operational framework of the Appeal Committee.

The Regulations, among others, provide that the Appeal Committee would be responsible for –

- (a) hearing of appeals of any person aggrieved by a decision taken by the Racing Stewards of the horse racing organiser;
- (b) ensuring that the Racing Stewards of the horse racing organiser act in a fair, equitable and transparent manner; and
- (c) promoting public confidence in the integrity of the horse racing industry.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities would promulgate the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2020 to control the wasteful usage of water during the prevailing persisting dry spell. The purpose of the Regulations is to make it an offence for any person to use water provided for domestic or non-domestic purpose through a hose-pipe, sprinkler or by any other similar apparatus, or in any wasteful manner to –

- (a) wash vehicles;
- (b) wash any pavement, building or part of any building; and
- (c) water any hedge, garden or lawn.

The Regulations would take effect as from 01 December 2020.

10. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being made to the Mental Health Care Act as subsequently amended in 2019, to provide for, inter alia, revised functions of the Mental Health Commission and the setting up of a Managerial Committee. The objective of the Mental Health Care (Amendment) Bill would be to clearly demarcate the respective functions of the Mental Health Commission and the Managerial Committee.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the recommendations made by the Ministerial Committee set up to look into the Concluding Observations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination following the submission of the 20th - 23rd Periodic Reports of Mauritius.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the development of a Business Continuity Plan model for the Public sector in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mauritius. The UNDP Mauritius Country Office would provide consultancy services to the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms for the establishment of a Business Continuity Plan model that could be activated in case of a total lockdown. The expected outcomes of the project are –

- (a) to minimise the impact of a disruption to the service delivery system within and across the various Ministries and to the general public; and
- (b) to adopt acceptable working arrangements, flexible working hours and particularly the work-from-home concept.

13. Cabinet has agreed to Government enlisting the services of international consultants to undertake the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment post the MV Wakashio Oil Spill.

14. Cabinet has agreed to the enlistment of the services of an expert from the *Centre de Documentation, de Recherche et d'Expérimentations sur les Pollutions Accidentelles des Eaux* (CEDRE) of France to provide technical assistance for establishing endpoints of the cleaning operations being carried out at the affected areas following the MV Wakashio oil spill.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the implementation of the Vertical Expansion Project of the Mare Chicose landfill under a 10-year contract, which includes civil works and operations. A Technical Committee was set up in 2019 under the Chair of Professor T. Ramjeawon from the University of Mauritius to examine all reports and proposals made in relation to Solid Waste Management and come up with actions and policy recommendations. The Technical Committee recommended, inter alia, the implementation of the Vertical Expansion Project of the Mare Chicose landfill as a top and immediate priority.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the National Development Unit, Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development would set up a new synthetic football pitch on the former premises of Chitrakoot Government School at Vallée des Prêtres.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the alarming situation of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing across the world. With regard to Mauritius, the last local case had been recorded on 26 November 2020 in a quarantine centre. Currently, there were 48 active cases of COVID-19 in Mauritius. As at 27 November 2020, 501 cases of COVID-19 had been registered in Mauritius. The public should observe strict sanitary precautions.

18. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation would organise the “*Salon de Solidarité - Création des Jeunes Entrepreneurs*” on Sunday 6 December 2020 at Pointe Jérôme Youth Centre, Mahebourg. The objectives of the ‘*Salon de Solidarité*’ are to –

- (a) provide a platform for the young entrepreneurs of the region to market and sell their products;
- (b) support young entrepreneurs and help them to recover from the economic and environment crisis caused by shipwreck “MV Wakashio”; and
- (c) build/consolidate the network of young entrepreneurs.

The programme would include –

- (i) the marketing and sales of products and services produced by the young/entrepreneurs of the region;
- (ii) the organisation of activities by youth-led NGOs of the region to give visibility to those who helped following the disaster;
- (iii) youth, sports and recreational activities organised by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation;
- (iv) activities to be organised by Active Mauritius; and
- (v) a mini-youth concert.

19. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation would organise an event to mark the International Volunteer Day on 5 December 2020 at Pointe Jérôme Youth Training Centre, which would include the following activities –

- (a) presentation of certificates to around 50 Youth Volunteer Team Leaders who would have followed a training course scheduled on 3 and 4 December 2020 on leadership, communication, volunteering principles and core values and the roles and responsibilities of a Team Leader;
- (b) presentation of the proposed new orientation for Youth Volunteer Mauritius; and
- (c) the official launching of a Youth Marching Band, a project, which has been devised in collaboration with the Mauritius Police Band, aiming at training young people aged between 18 to 35 years old in the use of musical instruments.

20. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation would, in collaboration with the Mauritius Sports Council organise recreation activities for young people aged between 12 and 35 years old in the context of the summer school holidays 2020. Special emphasis would be laid on outdoor recreational activities, as well as indoor games, that would help the youth stay physically active in a multi-cultural environment, learn new life and social skills, develop a sense of responsibility, independence as well as self-esteem and confidence, reduce their exposure to social media and screen-time, and get an opportunity to relax and have fun.

21. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation would organise the third edition of the Street Dance Battle in late November and in December 2020. Entries for the competition would be in four categories namely, Break Dance, (2 categories: less than 12 years and above 12 years), Open Afro Dance and Open Hip Hop All Styles. Road Shows would be organised for the first time.

22. Cabinet has taken note that the '*Festival Kiltir Ek Langaz Kreol Morisien*' with the central theme '*Nou viv ansam, Nou rebondi ansam*' would be held from 5 to 13 December 2020.

23. Cabinet has taken note of the programme of activities being organised by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with other stakeholders, for the National Christmas Celebrations 2020.

24. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in the context of World AIDS Day, observed on 1 December. Various activities would be launched at the University of Mauritius on 1 December 2020, including an HIV Testing and Counselling Day targeting the students. The other activities would include –

- (a) TV and radio programmes on HIV and AIDS to sensitise the population on the importance of knowing their HIV status, the prevention measures as well as the treatment services being offered;
- (b) forum debates on “Transmission and Prevention of HIV” with students, awareness sessions and HIV Screening and Counselling including in high risk areas;
- (c) a workshop on HIV prevention;
- (d) an awareness campaign and HIV screening of detainees in the different prisons; and
- (e) a “*Journée Porte Ouverte*” on the services offered by NGO PILS in collaboration with other NGOs, on 1 December 2020.

The theme for this year is “*Global Solidarity: Shared Responsibility*”.

25. Cabinet has taken note of the recent participation of the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation in the Virtual Chief Information Officer(CIO) Summit. The International Data Corporation (IDC) hosted the IDC Mauritius CIO Summit on its industry-leading virtual platform under the theme ‘The Race to Reinvent: Connecting Leaders to Empower Digital Transformation’.

The Summit offered the opportunity for expert speakers to explore the latest trends in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital leadership, intelligent automation and the future of work. The IDC recognised the Government’s unflinching efforts to put information technology at the core of the overall transformation process in the civil service and for the community and presented an award to the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation.

26. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency Board with Mr Danen Beemadoo as part-time Chairperson.

27. Cabinet has agreed to the appointment of Mr Uttam Sharma Hurnauth, Barrister-at-Law, as part-time Chairperson of the Co-operative Tribunal.

28. Cabinet has taken note that nine Assessors have been appointed to the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal, for a period of two years.

29. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Niteen Bappoo as the President of the Executive Council of the Marathi Speaking Union.

30. Cabinet has taken note of the reappointment of Dr Ramsamy Appadoo as the President of the Executive Council of the Telugu-Speaking Union.
