

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 06 DECEMBER 2024**

1. Cabinet has agreed to the payment of a Cash Grant for the purchase of school materials to some 13,000 children of eligible households of Mauritius and Rodrigues, under the Social Register of Mauritius, for Academic Year 2025 as follows –

### **For Children in Mauritius**

- (a) Cash Grant of Rs3,318 for each child attending pre-primary schools;
- (b) Cash Grant of Rs4,666 for each child attending primary schools;
- (c) Cash Grant of Rs5,703 for each child attending special needs education schools; and
- (d) Cash Grant of Rs6,222 for each child attending secondary schools.

### **For Children in Rodrigues**

- (a) Cash Grant of Rs3,836 for each child attending pre-primary schools;
- (b) Cash Grant of Rs5,185 for each child attending primary schools;
- (c) Cash Grant of Rs6,222 for each child attending special needs education schools; and
- (d) Cash Grant of Rs6,740 for each child attending secondary schools.

The Cash Grant system would also allow new households found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius up to 31 December 2024 to benefit from support under the School Materials Scheme.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to the review of the current policy regarding the criteria for promotion to Grade 12 (Lower Six) from five credits to three credits as from January 2025.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of the Final Planning Event for the Cutlass Express Exercise, from 11 to 13 December 2024, in Mauritius. The Exercise is a US Naval Forces-led joint multinational exercise conducted in East African Coastal regions and the West Indian Ocean to assess and improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security and increase interoperability between the United States, African Nations and International partners. Around 70 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe and other international organisations would attend the Final Planning Event.

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4. Cabinet has taken note of the activities being organised by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, in the context of the “*Festival Internasional Kreol*”, to be held from 12 to 22 December 2024.

The Festival would seek to showcase the authenticity of the kreol culture through local music, arts, language, handicraft and cuisine while demonstrating the richness of our Mauritian culture, under the theme, “*Kreolite Bote Nou Morisianism*”. The following activities would be organised –

- (a) ‘*Lansman Festival Internasional Kreol ek Sware Tipik*’ at Le Morne Village Public Beach on 12 December 2024;
- (b) ‘*Sega Jazz ek Sesion Sirandann*’ at Four à Chaux, Trou D’eau Douce on 13 December 2024;
- (c) ‘*Gran Konser*’ at Les Salines, Port Louis on 14 December 2024;
- (d) ‘*Festival Kiliner ek Plato Dekouver bann Artis Lokal*’ at Royal Road, Grand Bay on 15 December 2024;
- (e) ‘*Spektak Limour*’ at Residence Anoshka (Curepipe), Residence La Chaux (Mahebourg), Residence La Cure (Sainte Croix) Grande Rivière Noire and Sainte Catherine (L’Agrément, St Pierre) from 16 to 20 December 2024; and
- (f) ‘*Regat, Festival Kiliner ek Artizanal ek Konser Mizikal*’ at Mahebourg Waterfront on 22 December 2024.

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5. Cabinet has taken note of the holding of a closing workshop on Geographical indications on 10 December 2024, as part of a technical assistance programme funded by the European Union, to the tune of EUR298,550 for the capacity building of officers of the Industrial Property Office of Mauritius and other relevant Ministries/Departments in respect of the examination, assessment and processing of applications for the protection of Geographical indications names.

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6. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare would organise an ‘*Assises de la Femme et de la Famille*’ on the theme ‘*Anou Rebatir Nou Fami Ek Nou Lavenir*’ on 10 December 2024.

The ‘*Assises*’ would lead to the development of a robust roadmap which would chart the way forward for the development of innovative and reengineered policies and citizens’ focused measures. It would give way to the emergence of concrete measures which would be geared towards the advancement of the population at large.

Some 100 representatives mainly from Non-Governmental Organisations would participate in the ‘*Assises*’.

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7. Cabinet has taken note of the new school calendar for Primary and Secondary Sectors for the academic year 2025 as follows -

**Primary**

<b>First Term</b>	<b>Second Term</b>	<b>Third Term</b>
Friday 10 January to Friday 11 April  <u>Friday 10 January</u> New Entrants admitted to Grade 1  <u>Monday 13 January</u> Resumption of all classes	Monday 28 April to Friday 18 July	Monday 18 August to Friday 07 November

**Secondary**

<b>First Term</b>	<b>Second Term</b>	<b>Third Term</b>
Friday 10 January to Friday 11 April  <u>Friday 10 January</u> New Entrants admitted to Grade 7 and to Grade 10 in Academies  <u>Monday 13 January</u> Resumption of all classes	Monday 28 April to Friday 18 July	Monday 11 August to Friday 31 October

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the arrangements being made by the Ministry of Arts and Culture for the participation of Mauritius in the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, which would be held from 08 to 10 January 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India under the theme "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Economic Development Board (Smart City Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024, the Economic Development Board (Property Development Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024, the Economic Development Board (Invest Hotel Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024 and the Economic Development Board (Real Estate Development Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024 would be promulgated.

These Regulations would, inter alia, provide for mandatory requirements for non-citizens acquiring a residential property, under the aforementioned schemes, to effect payment of 85 percent of the purchase price in Rupee to the promoter. The remaining 15 percent of the purchase price might be paid either in foreign currency or Rupee.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the results of the National Certificate of Education (NCE) Assessment 2024, where out of the 13,562 candidates, 9,419, representing 69.5%, had achieved the National Qualifications Framework Level 2. 9,235 candidates of the Regular Programme, representing 81.8%, had met the requirements for the NCE in 2024 compared to 86.0% in 2023.

Out of the 2,275 candidates of Grade 9+ (Extended Programme), 62 candidates had met the requirements of the NCE (Extended Programme) and 122 candidates had met the requirements for the NCE. 8.1% of candidates in the Extended Programme had met the requirements of National Qualifications Framework Level 2 in 2024.

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11. Cabinet has taken note that the results of the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) Assessment 2024 would be announced on 12 December 2024. Pupils who would not have met the requirements of PSAC would be given the following options along with their PSAC results 2024 –

- (a) to catch up through resitting in up to three core subjects in which they had not passed in December 2024; or
- (b) to repeat Grade 6 in 2025 in the respective schools where they were admitted and benefit from dedicated remedial classes with trained educators, and subsequently take the PSAC Assessment 2025; or
- (c) to be admitted in a Secondary School in 2025 and follow a new programme on Literacy, Numeracy and Skills.

The remedial classes for the resit assessments would be held from 13 to 18 December 2024 in 50 Lead Schools. Resit assessment would be held on Thursday 19, Friday 20 and Monday 23 December 2024 and the results would be issued by the Mauritius Examination Syndicate to re-sit candidates by Monday 06 January 2025.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that following consultations between the Federation of Union of Managers and the Grants Monitoring Committee made up of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource and the Private Secondary Education Authority, it had been agreed that outstanding grants would be disbursed to grant-aided Private Secondary Schools by 15 December 2024.

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