

CABINET DECISIONS – 25 SEPTEMBER 2009

1. Cabinet has taken note that the net fishing season would be extended by 10 days until 10 October 2009.

2. Cabinet has taken note that works for the upgrading of Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital would start as from 6 October 2009.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the number of patients with Upper Respiratory Tract Infection attending Flu Clinics in hospitals and Primary Health Care Centres has decreased considerably. The daily average attendance due to Upper Respiratory Tract Infection in all government hospitals from 17 to 23 September was 2,057 as compared to 7,592 for period 17 to 23 August 2009. The number of admissions due to Upper Respiratory Tract Infection in government hospitals has also decreased.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment to the People's Republic of China from 8 to 14 September 2009, where he participated in –

- (a) the “**International Investment Forum**” of the 2009 China International Fair for Investment and Trade, and intervened on the theme “**Promoting International Investment to Accelerate Economic Recovery**”;
- (b) the World Economic Forum Third Annual Meeting of the New Champions and spoke on the theme “**The New Champions of Competitiveness**”;
- (c) the Eighth Session of the Sino-Mauritian Joint Commission, which reviewed progress achieved on :
 - (i) cooperation in trade, investment, labour services, engineering, construction services, technical assistance and development assistance;
 - (ii) the implementation of the New Airport Passenger Terminal Expansion Project;
 - (iii) the CCTV Street Surveillance System and Digital Radio Communication System Project;
 - (iv) the Pig-Breeding Technical Cooperation Project; and
 - (v) the 16th Term Agricultural Technical Cooperation Project.

The Chinese Side has agreed to finance the construction of six new operating theatres and two wards at Victoria Hospital, as well as provide with the state-of-the-art equipment. The Chinese Side would also welcome a second group of youth volunteers in the field of language and sports.

5. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the rehabilitation of the airstrip in Agalega to enable the safe landing of the Dornier Aircraft. The cost of the project would be to the tune of Rs 120m.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Competition Commission would publish, for public consultation, –

- (a) the draft guidelines on which anti-competitive cases would be determined; and
- (b) rules specifying the procedures that the Commission would follow when carrying out its functions.

The Competition Commission also proposes to carry out a public awareness campaign during the period 28 September to 24 October 2009.

7. Cabinet has taken note that, on the recommendation of the Tertiary Education Commission, the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources would promulgate the Tertiary Education Commission (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2009 to provide for the payment of fees in respect of the processing of an application for the establishment, registration or accreditation of private universities or other institutions offering post-secondary education in Mauritius. The income derived would enable the Tertiary Education Commission to increase access to higher education and help transform the country into a regional knowledge hub.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the 8th Session of the Mauritius-Pakistan Joint Working Group would be held from 5 to 7 October 2009 in Mauritius during which -

- (a) progress on the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement, signed in July 2007, would be reviewed;
- (b) the Free Trade Agreement covering all trades would be discussed;
- (c) avenues of cooperation in the Services Sector would be explored; and

- (d) trade-related issues, pertaining to information and communication technology, education, research, technology and health services, would be discussed.

Cabinet has further taken note that a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Fisheries Sector would be signed during the meeting of the Joint Working Group.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions would promulgate regulations under the National Savings Fund Act and the National Pension Act to provide for an increase in the minimum and maximum salaries on which contributions are payable to the National Savings Fund and the National Pension Fund to keep up with the increase in yearly earnings and to ensure that, at the time of retirement, an employee would receive a lump sum in line with his/her salary level. This exercise, undertaken yearly, is an inflation-proof process aimed at maintaining an appropriate lump sum for those drawing salary close to the ceiling.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would promulgate the Medical Council (Medical Institutions) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 to provide for –

- (a) the inclusion of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka, India on the list of medical institutions recognized by the Medical Council of Mauritius; and
- (b) the renaming of "M. Gorky Donetsk State Medical University" as "M. Gorky Donetsk National Medical University", Ukraine SSR.
