

## CABINET DECISIONS – 1 MARCH 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note that HE Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, would be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the celebration of National Day 2013. He will reach Mauritius on 11 March and leave on 13 March 2013. During his visit, the President of India would pay a courtesy visit to the President of the Republic of Mauritius, have a working session with the Prime Minister, lay a wreath at the Samadhi of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, visit Aapravasi Ghat, Port Louis, and Ganga Talao, attend the Flag Raising Ceremony at Anjalay Stadium, Belle Vue, visit to Mahatma Gandhi Institute and participate in a civic reception at Grand Bois. The University of Mauritius would confer upon him the Degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa*. Several areas of interest have been identified for discussion with HE Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, and six Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements would be signed.

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2. Cabinet has taken note that, following the implementation of various measures and incentives, the cattle population has increased from 5,100 heads in 2009 to 7,000 heads in 2012, and milk production from 3.5m litres in 2009 to 6.5m litres in 2012. In order to further boost the Dairy Sector, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security would introduce a Calf Productivity Incentive Scheme, under which a cash bonus of Rs2,500 would be granted to all dairy cow breeders for calves reaching 3 months to enable them to keep their productive calves and adopt good husbandry and management practices. The Scheme would apply only to dairy cows. A breeder will be eligible for the grant in respect of up to a maximum of 30 weaned calves per year.

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3. Cabinet has taken note of measures being taken to implement the decision, announced in Budget 2013, to award scholarships to 50 deserving students from Africa. The scholarships would be open to citizens and permanent residents of 21 African countries that are being targeted for investment and the promotion of trade in the context of our Africa strategy. The awardee should be registered for full time undergraduate studies at any public or private tertiary education institution duly registered with the Tertiary Education Commission and offering full time undergraduate courses. The duration of the award would be up to four years. The country submitting nominations for scholarship should sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the *modus operandi* of the Scheme.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that an Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications would be signed between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of India during the forthcoming State Visit of HE Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India to Mauritius. The Agreement provides, amongst others, for the facilitation of the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications with respect to Indian students wishing to study in Mauritius and Mauritian students wishing to study in India at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and both parties to designate an appropriate body to provide information on recognition and make concrete recommendations in accordance with their current regulations and practices.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that, during the forthcoming State Visit of the President of the Republic of India, the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on matters pertaining to the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, amongst others, for capacity building, the conduct of industrial potential surveys and feasibility studies to identify thrust areas and opportunities for the development of micro, small and medium enterprises, and the promotion of partnership projects and cooperation between institutions in both countries.

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6. Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Dr the Hon A. T. Kasenally, GOSK, FRCS, Minister of Housing and Lands, to consider the review of the Medical Council.

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7. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, would launch the School of Performing Arts for Persons with Disabilities on 5 March 2013 at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Recreation Centre, Belle Mare. The main objectives of the School are to develop the creative and artistic potential of persons with disabilities and enable them to utilize their talents and performing arts as a means to generate income.

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8. Cabinet has taken note of the recommendations of the National Remuneration Board in respect of employees of the Electrical, Engineering and Mechanical Workshops and that the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment would promulgate the Remuneration Order Regulations incorporating the recommendations of the Board, together with his recommendations, which are, amongst others, as follows –

- (a) a wage increase varying between 12% to 36%;
- (b) increase in meal allowance from Rs20 to Rs 70;
- (c) increase in annual leave entitlement from 14 days to 16 days;
- (d) increase in the quantum of Special Leave as follows –
  - (i) 6 working days' leave on full pay on the occasion of the first religious or civil marriage;
  - (ii) 3 working days' leave on full pay on the occasion of the religious or civil marriage of a child; and
  - (iii) 3 working days' leave on full pay on the death of the spouse, child, father, mother, brother or sister;

- (e) increase in death grant from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500;
- (f) workers exposed to dust and noxious fumes and substances shall undergo a complete medical check-up every 6 months at the expense of the employer; and
- (g) the bottle of milk to be provided to Blacksmith, Moulder, Painter, Welder and Electrician in charge of batteries to be of 800 ml.

As at January 2012, there were around 28 large and 111 small establishments registered as workshops. According to Statistics Mauritius, employment in the sector has increased from 5,400 to 7,900 during period 2005 to 2011. Female workers represent 25% of the total employment in large establishments.

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9. Cabinet has taken note of the organization of the 5th edition of the *Jeux de l'Espoir* in March and April 2013. The main objectives of the Games are to promote sporting values and encourage sporting practice among youths. The Games also aim at detecting new talents with a view to channeling them to the different regional training centres. Fifteen sports disciplines and one youth activity have been retained for the *Jeux*, namely Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Handball, Judo, Swimming, Tae Kwon Do, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Weight Lifting, Wrestling, Cycling (Boys only) and Spectacle Vivant. 3,000 athletes, including some 150 foreign participants from Seychelles and Reunion Island, would participate in the *Jeux*.

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10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of a Study on the improvement of the legal framework for the promotion of trade in health and education services in Mauritius carried out under the ACP Multilateral Trade Support Programme. The Programme aims at identifying gaps in domestic legislation affecting trade in services. Given the potential to develop Mauritius as a Medical and Education Hub in the Indian Ocean, the Study considered some of the possible measures that could be taken to unleash the growth potential of those sectors and strengthen the regulatory environment to attract more foreign direct investment.

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11. Cabinet has taken note of the various activities undertaken by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to relaunch the Pig Sector, viz., provision of feed free of charge; loan facilities to pig breeders to restart their activities; renovation works at St Martin and Bassin Requin; setting up of an Artificial Insemination Unit for pigs at Albion for genetic improvement of local herd; provision of market outlets and setting up of a Salle de Découpe. To date, the pig population has reached some 18,000 heads.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that the Regional Meeting/Workshop on 'Application of Developed Capacity in Nuclear and Related Analytical Techniques to Analyse Nationwide Samples' would be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 June 2013. The Regional Workshop is one of the components of the Project RAF/5/057 - 'Establishing a Food Safety Network through the Application of Nuclear and Related Technologies' - which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit, in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The objectives of the Project are, inter alia, to –

- (a) reduce the risk of foodborne diseases and enhance food trade by introducing/strengthening simple nuclear techniques as part of the microbial and chemical hazard programme;
- (b) promote the role of laboratories, using nuclear and complementary non-nuclear techniques, in ensuring good agricultural or food producing/processing practices; and
- (c) encourage development of national and international standards, where necessary.

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13. Cabinet has agreed to the withdrawal of the reciprocity reservation made by the Republic of Mauritius upon its accession to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards to enable the expeditious resolution and settlement of international disputes. The reservation clause provides that a State would, on the basis of reciprocity, apply the Convention to the recognition and enforcement of awards made only in the territory of another Contracting State. Following the enactment of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards Act in 2001, a dual regime with respect to arbitral awards exists, as awards rendered in countries, which have ratified the Convention, are enforceable in Mauritius under the provisions of the Convention, whereas awards, rendered in countries which have not ratified the Convention, are only enforceable in Mauritius under the *Code de Procédure Civile*.

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14. Cabinet has taken note of the various activities that would be organized to commemorate the *Journée Internationale de La Francophonie* on 20 March 2013, namely –

- (a) presentation of projects/cultural diversity by the students of the *Institut de La Francophonie pour l'Entrepreneuriat*;
- (b) holding of a public conference on the historic evolution of French language on the theme *Contre la pensée unique, pour la diversité des langues*;
- (c) slam competition having recourse to *10 mots de La Francophonie*; and
- (d) *concours de dictée, d'Orthographe, de la lecture à haute voix* for primary and secondary school students.

The theme for this year is *Le Français est une chance*.

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15. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to mark the World Consumer Rights Day commemorated on 15 March 2013, namely Road Shows at the Goodlands Farmers Centre, Bambous, Flacq and Rose Belle; sales of products at promotional price; and awareness campaigns on consumer's rights and on the services provided by the Consumer Protection Unit of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection. The theme chosen to mark World Consumer Rights Day this year is **Consumers Justice Now**.

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16. Cabinet has taken note that, to date, 396 Mauritian nationals have been placed in employment in Canada under the Labour Migration Project. The contracts of employment of a significant number of Mauritians have been renewed, many of them are upgrading their skills, following a higher school education or acquiring a trade certificate.

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17. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2013 commemorated on 8 March, the "Strategic Framework for Young Women's Movement" would be launched and a cultural programme held at Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Reduit. The theme chosen to mark the day is **The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum**.

Cabinet has also taken note that, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, the Prime Minister would, on Thursday 14 March 2013, launch a DVD entitled **From Women's Rights to Gender Equality**. A cultural show on the theme of the Day would also be held.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the report of Professor Patrick Pelayo, Vice-President of the Université de Lille 2, on the situation of students of medicine and pharmacy enrolled with l'Ecole de Médecine Louis Pasteur of Mauritius, and agreed to an enquiry being carried out to situate responsibilities and initiate legal action as appropriate.

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19. Cabinet has taken note that, during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Joint Surveillance Mission being carried out under the "*Plan Régional de Surveillance des Pêches*" in the waters of the IOC Member States, the Malagasy patrol vessel "Atsantsa" intercepted two fishing vessels, **Malshe I** and **GM-5**, from Sri Lanka carrying out illegal fishing activities in the Nazareth Bank. The two vessels were escorted to Port Louis harbour on 28 February 2013. Appropriate legal action would be initiated against them.

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20. Cabinet has taken note that the number of fatal accidents at work was 9 in 2012 as compared to 16 in 2011. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment is taking measures, such as prosecutions, surprise visits, workers/employers education to render the workplace safer for workers.

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21. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Health and Quality of Life would promulgate Regulations under the Medical Council Act 1999 and the Dental Council Act 1999 for the recognition and listing of the following medical and dental institutions –

**Medical Institutions**

- (a) *The People's Republic of China*

Jilin University

- (b) *Islamic Republic of Iran*

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

- (c) *Ex-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Ukrainian SSR)*

Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, formerly known as Kharkiv Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians

**Dental Institutions**

- (a) *The People's Republic of China*

Dalian Medical University

- (b) *India*

Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat (Change of appellation, formerly known as Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat)

Devi Ahilya Vishwavidhyalaya, Indore

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

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22. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the project "Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Mauritius". In line with the Stockholm Convention, in 2005, Mauritius developed a National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants. An assessment of the 12 initially listed Persistent Organic Pollutants, and inventories on the production, use and stocks of toxic chemicals and of contaminated sites was carried out. To date, most of the inventoried stocks of Persistent Organic Pollutant chemicals and wastes have been disposed of safely in line with international norms.

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23. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of the Managing Committee of the Cooperative Development Fund with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Cooperatives Division) as Chairperson.