

CABINET DECISIONS – 05 JULY 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the National Identity Card (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to make better provision in relation to matters pertaining to national identity cards. The Bill also provides, amongst others, -

- (a) that a person, who is certified by a medical practitioner in the public service, to be unable to provide his biometric information by reason of any permanent infirmity or disability, shall be exempt from providing such information;
- (b) that a person empowered by law to ascertain the identity of another person may request a citizen of Mauritius to produce his identity card;
- (c) that a person who produces any false document for the purpose of being issued with an identity card shall commit an offence; and
- (d) that, a person, after being issued with a new identity card by reason of his identity card being lost, finds the original identity card, shall, within 7 working days, return the identity card found.

2. Cabinet has taken note that a hypothetical adjustment would be made to the salary of some 125 Private Secondary School Teachers (Category 2) holding a Teacher's Diploma to align their salary with that of Teachers (Category 1). The adjustment would take effect from January 2011 and arrangement would be made for the payment of arrears.

3. Cabinet has taken note of a report on the oil spill that took place in the harbour on 3 July 2013. The Port Emergency Services launched response as soon as alerted. About 7 tons of oil was estimated to have leaked out. About 90% of the oil has been recouped. The Mauritius Ports Authority has launched a full investigation to ascertain the source of the leak and to situate responsibilities.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Universal Periodic Review National Report of Mauritius being transmitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Report highlights new developments in the human rights framework, policies, achievements and best practices, as well as the work covered by national human rights institutions in Mauritius since the last review in 2009. The Universal Periodic Review is a process that involves review of the human rights records of all United Nations Member States. It provides an opportunity to States to declare actions initiated to improve human rights situations and fulfill human rights obligations.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of:
- (a) the National HIV and AIDS Policy, a framework which aims at providing appropriate guidelines and directives to ensure and maintain an enabling environment for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS and related diseases; and
 - (b) the National Multi-Sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2013-2016 and the Rodrigues Multi-Sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2013-2016, strategic guides for national response to HIV and AIDS. The Frameworks provide for the implementation of national HIV programmes in line with the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS Strategy of "Getting to Zero—zero new infection, zero AIDS-related death and zero discrimination", and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS 2011.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, following the Bilateral Agreement (*Declaration Conjointe*) for the Project "*Faciliter une gestion responsable et efficace de la migration circulaire de travailleurs mauriciens vers l'Italie*" signed in September 2012, the Italian authorities have decided to include Mauritius in the list of beneficiary countries whose citizens are eligible to be part of the 2013 quota of seasonal workers admitted to enter the Italian territory. Under the Agreement, the Italian authorities would provide technical assistance to growers and processors in the field of agro-industry, and seasonal employment opportunities in the Tourism and the Fishing Sectors. In this connection, a delegation from Italy visited Mauritius in May 2013 to discuss the implementation of the Agreement and held a workshop to sensitize stakeholders on Italian legislation and policies relating to labour, employment and migration.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the National Report prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to support discussions at the Third Global Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference scheduled to be held in Samoa in 2014. The National Report highlights the national and sectoral strategies developed to strengthen the environmental management and sustainable development frameworks of the country, the new and emerging challenges that are likely to impact on future sustainable development prospects, and the need for collaborative partnerships within the international community.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the projects that have recently been implemented to develop skills of entrepreneurs and facilitate access to information technology, industrial space and market, namely –

- (a) setting up of the SME Resource and Technology Centre that acts as a knowledge hub and provides the necessary resources to the small and medium enterprises for effectively doing business;
- (b) opening of Regional Offices in Bon Accueil, Triolet and Curepipe in order to decentralize the services being offered by SMEDA;
- (c) upgrading of the website of SMEDA to make it more inter-active and dynamic;
- (d) setting up of an Exhibition Centre and sales of local products within the compounds of SMEDA for showcasing locally manufactured products;
- (e) organization of an annual SME Trade & Technology Fair and regional fairs to enable SMEs to showcase and sell their products and services; and
- (f) setting up of SME Parks at Roche Bois, La Tour Koenig, Bambous, Solitude and Plaine Magnien. The industrial park at Roche Bois has already been completed and the 15 units are fully occupied.

9. Cabinet has taken note that Dr the Hon Shukuru J. Kawambwa, Minister of Education and Vocational Training of the United Republic of Tanzania, would visit Mauritius from 12 to 15 July 2013 when he would sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration in the fields of tertiary education, science and research.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the Africa Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development and the Mauritius Meteorological Services would jointly hold the Second Regional Climate Outlook Forum for South West Indian Ocean Countries in Mauritius from 28 October to 01 November 2013. The Forum would, inter alia, focus on capacity development of Meteorologists, Disaster Managers and Scientists, scientific analysis, and application of new technologies for the operational long range seasonal forecasting. Participants from Australia, Comoros, France, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Seychelles, South Africa, and Tanzania would attend the Forum. Resource persons from Australia, France and India would also participate in the event.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the 10th Annual Meeting of the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System would be held in Mauritius from 21 to 27 October 2013, under the aegis of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. The Meeting would focus, inter alia, on –

- (a) identifying gaps and deficiencies in the ocean and coastal observing system and developing a programme for realizing a well-designed Ocean Observation System for the Indian Ocean region;
- (b) establishing efficient systems for the acquisition, management, processing and interpretation of oceanographic data;
- (c) identifying priorities for operational oceanography and ocean services in the Indian Ocean region, based on evaluation of social and economic benefits; and
- (d) capacity building to meet training needs of countries of the region.

Some 30 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are expected to attend the Meeting.

12. Cabinet has taken note that a training session for COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Trade Negotiators would be held in Mauritius from 22 to 26 July 2013. TradeMark Southern Africa, which officially provides technical backup to the Tripartite Secretariat, has developed training modules to strengthen the technical skills of negotiators involved in negotiating all aspects of the Tripartite Free Trade Area. The courses would cover the main thematic areas for negotiating trade in goods, i.e., Drafting Free Trade Agreements, Tariff Liberalization, Rules of Origin, Trade Remedies and Dispute Settlement. Participants from Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles would follow the course.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the triologue meeting among the EU Commission, EU Council and EU Parliament on the Sugar CAP Reform. The triologue has decided that the sugar regime will expire at the end of the sugar marketing year 2016/2017.

Cabinet has also taken note of measures taken to meet the challenges of the end of the EU sugar quotas and mitigate to the maximum extent possible the negative incidence. Moreover, the partners of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and those of the Least Developed Countries would pursue the lobbying action *vis-à-vis* the EU policy makers and institutions, so as to ensure that ACP interests are safeguarded in the new implementation modalities for the post-2015 sugar regime and additional measures are adopted as means of compensation for the loss of preference to be suffered by ACP suppliers as a result of the changing market conditions following the end of quotas in 2017.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to mark the World Population Day celebrated on 11 July, viz. -

- (a) a one-day workshop to develop a National Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health Services;
- (b) sensitization of teenage mothers on pregnancy-related matters;
- (c) awareness campaign on sexual and reproductive health for secondary schools students with focus on “Teenage Pregnancy”; and
- (d) awareness creation sessions for workers of the Export Oriented Enterprise Sector.

The global theme chosen for this year is **Adolescent Pregnancy**.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to Paris where she participated in a Conference on Ageing. The theme of the Conference was “*Le Vieillissement en Afrique: Enjeu actuel ou défi futur*”. The Conference aimed at –

- (a) raising awareness on the ageing phenomenon in the African Continent;
- (b) identifying related challenges selected; and
- (c) highlighting the need to put in place relevant policies and strategies to respond to those challenges.

In the margins of the Conference, the Minister had a meeting with officials of -

- (a) the *Caisse nationale d'assurance vieillesse* with whom she discussed the current system of retirement insurance, benefits and assistance provided to the elderly; future challenges; and the relevant reforms in the retirement sector; and
- (b) the *Caisse nationale de solidarité pour l'autonomie*, with whom she discussed the assistance and support provided to dependent elderly and persons with disabilities.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to Bamako, Mali, where he participated in the first Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention. The aim of the Meeting was to operationalise the Bamako Convention and discuss, amongst others, –

- (a) Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties;
- (b) Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Convention; Legal and Technical Assistance; and
- (c) Intra-African cooperation and international cooperation.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Reunion Island. The main objective of the visit was to enhance collaboration with medical institutions in Reunion Island and seek technical assistance for the provision of services currently not available and the improvement of existing services in Mauritius. The '*Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Réunion*' and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the necessary framework for partnership in the various fields of medicine.
