

CABINET DECISIONS – 07 JUNE 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the Minister of Education and Human Resources amending the Education (Amendment) Regulations 2013 that provide, amongst others, for the award, under the New Government Scholarship Schemes, of 14 additional Government scholarships to students coming from families with a household income not exceeding Rs12,000 and ranked on the combined merit list of the first 500 Cambridge International Examination Scholarship Rank Order. The amendments would provide for the allocation of unutilized slots under the Scheme to the best ranked students, based on merit and the social criteria, in any of the four fields, i.e., Science Side, Economics Side, Art Side and Technical Side, with a view to providing increased opportunities of access to higher education.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the Special Package Scheme developed by Air Mauritius for Government officials, who, accompanied by their spouse and children, wish to visit Shanghai at their own cost. Government officials, who wish to benefit from the Scheme, will have to register with Air Mauritius directly. The Scheme would be operational up to December 2013.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Authority, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, would, for the benefit of Form III students, run, on a pilot basis, a course on the basic principles of computer programming. The project aims at giving the opportunity to students to acquire basic skills in computational thinking, and discovering abilities in computer programming. The project would be conducted for a period of six weeks at Sir A.R. Mohamed State Secondary School (Boys), Rajcoomar Gujadhur State Secondary School (Girls), Dunputh Lallah State Secondary School (Girls), Sewa Bappoo State Secondary School (Girls), and Grande Montagne College (Rodrigues).

4. Cabinet has taken note that, as announced in Budget Speech 2013, the Limited Liability Partnerships Bill would be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. The object of the Bill would be to consolidate the geographical and product diversification of the Financial Services Sector, and establish a legal framework for the regulation of limited liability partnerships operating in Mauritius.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the terms and conditions of the Loan Scheme, operated by the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) Ltd, for improving educational infrastructure of private-aided secondary schools would be amended to facilitate the implementation of the Scheme. The Loan Scheme was introduced in 2012 to provide loan facilities to Private Grant-Aided Secondary Schools for the upgrading and improvement of educational infrastructure, the construction of new educational units/extension of existing units, and the acquisition of land for the construction/extension of the educational units.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund Act being amended to provide for the Board of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund to be constituted on the same line as other Cultural Centres, and the delinking of Hadj matters from the Islamic Cultural Centre.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Hon Yeung Sik Yuen Yeung Kam John, GOSK, Chief Justice, has been elected member to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) during the 25th Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination in New York. The Committee is a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the status of the Deep Ocean Water Applications Project, formerly known as the Land-Based Oceanic Industry Project, which consists of harnessing cold deep sea water for commercial exploitation. Various firms have expressed interest in the project and their project proposals are currently being examined.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that are being organized by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to mark the World Blood Donor Day 2013, celebrated on 14 June, namely –

- (a) a “March” proceeding from Dr Maurice Curé State College to the Municipal Town Council of Vacoas/Phoenix;
- (b) blood donation;
- (c) a slogan contest by students; and
- (d) presentation of prizes to the best blood donors, the best blood donation organisers and the winners of the slogan contest.

The theme for this year is **Every Blood Donation is a GIFT of LIFE.**

10. Cabinet has taken note of measures taken by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare for the registration of Child Day Care Centres which provide care and support to children in the age group of 03 months to 03 years.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the recent development with respect to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection and of all necessary measures taken by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to prevent local transmission of the disease. The Ministry would, shortly, start a campaign to sensitize those proceeding to Saudi Arabia and the Middle East countries on the disease. The World Health Organisation has been informed that, as at 5 June 2013, there were 54 laboratory confirmed cases, including 30 deaths, of human infections with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism and Leisure to Reunion Island where he launched the promotional airfare of EUR159 proposed by Air Mauritius for arrivals from Gillot for the period June/July 2013. Tourist arrivals from Reunion Island have increased steadily over the past three years from 104,946 in 2009 to 139,169 in 2012. A growth of 21.9% was recorded with the arrival of 41,742 tourists for the first three months of 2013 as compared to 34,229 during the corresponding period in 2012.

13. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Health and Quality of Life to Geneva where he participated in the 66th Session of the World Health Assembly. The World Health Assembly, amongst others, adopted resolutions on disability, e-Health, Universal Health Coverage and improving quality, supply and use of commodities for women and children, and endorsed the Action Plans on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, Mental Health 2013-2020 and Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment 2014-2019.

In the margins of the Assembly, the Minister of Health and Quality of Life signed a Memorandum of Understanding with –

- (a) the University of Geneva for the setting up of a full-fledged medical undergraduate programme in collaboration with the University of Mauritius; and
- (b) Professor Cyrus Tabatabay, President of Teaching Eye Surgery Foundation, Geneva for technical support in terms of training, equipment and services for the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital at Moka.
