

CABINET DECISIONS – 10 MAY 2013

1. Taking into consideration the increase in the number of major road accidents, Cabinet has agreed to a proposal of the Prime Minister for the setting up of a Driver Education and Testing Centre. The Centre would, amongst others, -

- (a) provide formal and systematic training and education programmes designed to improve road user skills and behaviour;
- (b) help drivers and riders develop respectful and responsible attitudes and improve driving competency; and
- (c) carry out the testing for the issue of driving licences.

The Centre would comprise a road circuit with the usual traffic features, a special circuit for wet weather braking exercises for motorcycle riders, a purpose built area to conduct training, and a track for racing. The Centre would be put up at Bagatelle.

2. Cabinet has taken note that Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, would, on 15 May 2013, launch the Child Protection Service at Vacoas. The Child Protection Service, the first of its kind, is dedicated solely to children, victims of violence and abuse, and would improve access to psychosocial and legal services. Moreover, the Child Protection Service would be equipped with a child-friendly corner. The Service would be extended to other regions of Mauritius for an improved service to children, victims of violence.

3. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Mauritius Light Rapid Transit Project, which aims at solving traffic congestion problems and providing an efficient and quality public transport system. The first phase of the project would be implemented from Curepipe to Port Louis as an alternative mode of transport. Works are scheduled to start by October 2014.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the launching of the anti-influenza vaccination campaign for the elderly and disabled at the Municipal Town Council of Vacoas-Phoenix and the Social Welfare Centre of Triolet on 13 May 2013. The campaign would be carried out from 13 May to 11 June 2013.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, with the support of the World Health Organization, proposes to develop a National Health Literacy Framework to strengthen prevention of non-communicable diseases and ensure that the public is provided with health information to help them adopt healthy behaviours. The Framework, which will be implemented over a period of 10 years, would focus on the use of Information and Communication Technology and promote the flow of information through multi-sectoral and coordinated efforts with the involvement of key stakeholders in the education and related sectors so as to avoid duplication and efficiently address the determinants of health literacy.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Open University, Mauritius has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of South Africa to enable the Open University, Mauritius or its students, to use, free of charge, until 2015, courseware available at the University of South Africa.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) Examinations would be held from 22 to 25 October 2013. Some 24,588 students in Mauritius and Rodrigues would take part in the Examinations. The results would be announced by 12 December 2013.

8. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the construction of University Campuses at Montagne Blanche, Pamplemousses and Reduit with a view to decentralizing tertiary education infrastructure as announced in Budget 2013.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the National Computer Board, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, would organize a workshop on the theme **ICTs and improving Road Safety** to mark the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on 17 May 2013. The main objective of the workshop is, amongst others, to sensitize on emerging technologies, such as intelligent transport systems, as a solution of how ICT can improve road safety, discuss on the impact of using ICT (mobile phones, tablets) while driving, and elaborate on Government's strategy towards road safety from an ICT perspective.

10. Cabinet has taken note that syndics have been set up within the NHDC housing estates and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of Housing and Lands and each syndic. A monthly grant per family is being allocated to the Syndics to enable them to ensure that the common areas are maintained, cleaned and kept in an orderly state.

11. Cabinet has taken note that a delegation from the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning would be on a Study Tour in Mauritius from 20 to 24 May 2013. The main objectives of the Study Tour are to –

- (a) understudy the processes for the establishment of the Open University and learn from the Mauritian experience in the provision of quality distance education;
- (b) consider the use of courses, programmes and materials developed by the Open University of Mauritius; and
- (c) establish joint research projects.

12. Cabinet has taken note of the amendments that would be brought to the Human Tissue (Removal, Preservation and Transplant) Act 2006 to provide -

- (a) immunity to members of the Organ and Tissue Transplant Board, and members of Committees established under the Act or such other person or body, in respect of any act done or omitted in the execution of his/her functions or duties or exercise of his/her powers in good faith, under the Act; and
- (b) for severe penalties to deter at the level of institutions, donors and recipients to contravene the provisions of the Act and the Regulations made under the Act.

Cabinet has also taken note that the Organ and Tissue Transplant Board has been reconstituted with Dr K. Pauvaday, Acting Director General Health Services as Chairperson.

13. Cabinet has taken note of activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare in the context of the International Day of Families 2013, observed on 15 May, namely -

- (a) launching of an Ecole de Musique et Danse and of the Strengthening Values for Family Life Programme;
- (b) organisation of a half-day symposium for women associations; and
- (c) a Family Weekend at l'Aventure du Sucre, la Vanille, Reserve des Mascareignes, Casela Nature and Leisure Park, Blue Safari, Cerfs Volants – les Tyroliennes de Chazal, la Vallée des Couleurs Nature Park, la Vallée de Ferney Forest and Wildlife Reserve and Mauritius Aquarium.

The theme chosen by the United Nations is **Advancing Social Integration and Intergenerational Solidarity**. At national level the theme would be *Ansam Fer Tou Nou Fami Kontan*.

14. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Fisheries to Brussels where he participated in the Fourth European Tuna Conference and the European Seafood Exposition. The focus of the Conference was on **The Economics of Tuna**. The European Seafood Exposition, an annual event covering latest developments and innovations in the European tuna market, provided a platform for top buyers and sellers from around the world to source fisheries products, and for networking with industry professionals. It also showcased all categories of seafood products; storage, processing and handling equipment; and a host of seafood-related services, including freight-handling, insurance, and information technology.

15. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to South Africa where he participated in the Regional Summit on SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, "SADC Gender Protocol @ Work". At the Summit, which was organized by Gender Links, 15 countries of SADC, including Mauritius, presented their best practices in the following five themes –

- (a) Gender based Violence and Conflict Resolution;
- (b) Climate Change and Sustainable Development;
- (c) Sexual and Reproductive Rights and HIV and AIDS;
- (d) Constitutional and Legal Rights and Governance; and
- (e) Education and Economic Development.

On the occasion, prizes were awarded to the following local institutions for best practices in gender issues:

- (a) the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in Sexual and Reproductive Rights;
- (b) the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation for the Best Performance for Media Centre Excellence as well as Media Leadership;
- (c) the Municipal Town Council of Vacoas-Phoenix for the Best Improved Performance;
- (d) the Grand Port District Council for the Best Centre of Excellence; and
- (e) the Municipal Town Council of Curepipe on Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

16. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and other stakeholders, at the Jardin de la Compagnie, Port Louis, on the occasion of the Africa Day 2013, celebrated on 25 May, viz. -

- (a) an African Mask Exhibition;
- (b) a culinary exhibition to showcase African cuisine with the participation of the Middlesex University, the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture, the University of Mauritius Trust, the African Ladies Association, and the Ecole Hôtelière Sir Gaëtan Duval;
- (c) a Cultural show and fashion display;
- (d) an Exhibition/demonstration of sculpture; and
- (e) display of the Flags of the Members of the African Union.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in the context of the Dubai Global Convention on Business Excellence.

In the margins of the Convention, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection had meetings with –

- (a) Mr Ibrahim Al Fardan, Board Member and Mr Aqil Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer of the Nakheel Group, a key player in realizing the vision of Dubai as a world class destination for living, business and tourism;
- (b) the Head of Private Banking of Emirates NBD Bank;
- (c) Mr Gerald Lawless, President and Group CEO of Jumeirah Group;
- (d) Mr Firoz Merchant, Chairperson of the Pure Gold Group, a leading jewellery manufacturer and retailer in the Middle East and Asia;
- (e) Mr Mehta, Owner of Kaanee American International Tobacco Company (KAITCO); and
- (f) Mr Anil Sharma, General Manager and Mr Sachin Wadhwa, MD for Electronics Business of Al Futtaim Electronics.

18. Cabinet has taken note that the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) would be held in mid-2014 to, amongst others, assess progress made in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. The Conference would also identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and ways and means to address them through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community.
