

## CABINET DECISIONS – 17 MAY 2013

1. Cabinet took cognizance of the broad aspects of the Report of the Committee on Errors, Omissions and Anomalies arising out of the 2013 PRB Report and decided to examine the Report in detail at a Special Meeting to be held on Monday 20 May 2013.

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2. Cabinet has agreed to amendments being brought to the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act 2001 to incorporate the recommendations of the Office of Public Sector Governance which carried out a study on the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Early Retirement Scheme (ERS) Recoup cost.

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3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Seeds Bill in the National Assembly. The Bill provides for the setting up of a National Plant Varieties and Seeds Office, which would regulate the cultivation, production, trade, exportation and importation of seeds of any variety of any kind of plant and be responsible for the enforcement of the Seeds Act. The Bill also makes provision for the registration of varieties of seeds, seeds testing, seeds inspections and certification of any seed.

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4. Cabinet has taken note that, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the African Union, an SSR Chair of African Studies would be established. The Chair, which would focus on areas, such as economic cooperation, social development or mediation and conflict resolution, would be based at the University of Mauritius. The establishment of the Chair would also pay tribute to the contribution of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam who presided over many strategic choices relevant to Africa.

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5. Cabinet has taken note that the Office of Public Sector Governance, which operates under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office, is, *inter alia*, developing a system for an effective and efficient management of physical assets in Ministries and Departments. The System would allow the Office of Public Sector Governance to track and manage assets owned by Government from the time the asset is purchased till its disposal.

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6. In line with Government Programme 2012-2015 and the reform process in the Agricultural Sector to improve cost effectiveness, quality of service and optimal use of human resources, Cabinet has agreed to the setting up of a Food and Agriculture Research and Extension Institute. The Institute would take over all research, extension and coordination activities of the non-sugar agriculture currently being carried out by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit and the Food and Agricultural Research Council.

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7. Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the measures contained in the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework, prepared under the Africa Adaptation Programme. The main objectives of the Framework are to foster the development of policies, strategies, plans and processes to avoid, or minimise the negative impacts of climate change on the key sectors as well as to avoid or reduce damage to human settlements and infrastructure and loss of lives caused by climate change. It also aims at integrating and mainstreaming climate change into core development policies, strategies and plans of Mauritius. The Framework has focused on the assessment of socio-economic impacts of climate change in key sectors, i.e., water, agriculture, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, fisheries, tourism and coastal management.

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8. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms driving and monitoring the implementation of Customer Charter in the public service. The Charter enables Ministries/Departments and parastatal bodies to set quality standards for proper, effective and efficient service delivery to members of the public and help keep customers aware of the necessary conditions to be fulfilled by them to allow timely response.

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9. Cabinet has taken note that the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) was presented an award in the category of “**Excellence in ICT Regulation for Licensing, Certification, Spectrum and other Resources**” by the Communication Multimedia Association of India, an apex body in the promotion of growth in Communications, Manufacturing and Technology in India. Following the conferment of the Award, the ICTA was bestowed with Honorary Membership of the Communication Multimedia Association of India.

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10. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius has been awarded the Indian Ocean’s Leading Honeymoon Destination and the Indian Ocean’s Leading Dive Destination by the World Travel Awards.

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11. Cabinet has agreed to the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services, which aims, amongst others, at progressively liberalising intra-regional trade in services, enhancing economic development, diversification, foreign investment in the services economies in the region, and promoting sustainable economic growth and development with a view to raising the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa.

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12. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Temporary) (Provisions) Act 2013 was proclaimed on 30 April 2013 and an Interim Management Committee has been set up to manage the Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Committee, which is being chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, is working on proposals to review services provided in the three veterinary clinics of the MSPCA, quality and upgrading of clinical equipment, infrastructure, management of complaints, accountability and good governance and dog control/mass sterilization.

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13. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organisation aiming at establishing a framework of cooperation geared towards the implementation of the Intellectual Property Development Plan to enable Government to protect, encourage and effectively use intellectual property system to complement its national development strategies. The Memorandum of Understanding focuses, amongst others, on strengthening of the Intellectual Property Policy and the Legal Framework and legislation, modernizing intellectual property administration and using intellectual property for development, promoting innovation, creativity and technology transfer.

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14. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the University of Mauritius and the University of Geneva would sign a Memorandum of Understanding to provide for collaboration between the University of Mauritius and the University of Geneva to run the medical undergraduate programme of 6-year duration. The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would provide clinical facilities within public hospitals, particularly in Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, and in specialised hospitals, for the clinical training of the undergraduate medical students.

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15. Cabinet has taken note that exports for industrial products from January to April 2013 have increased by 1.8% and surpassed to the same period in 2012. Exports of textile, fish and fish preparation, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones as well as medical devices are growing. Our export to UK, USA, South Africa, Italy and Germany are progressing healthily.

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16. Cabinet has taken note of the collaboration between the Open University of Mauritius and the Mailman School of Public Health of the Columbia University, USA, in the field of research to reduce the risk for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in children and examine social and biological influences on the development of cardio-metabolic risk in children in Mauritius. The Mailman School of Public Health, one of the top five schools of public health in USA, addresses critical public health issues, such as emerging infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, urban health, health disparities, the impact of exposure to pollutants on children's health and the economic impact of health policy decisions.

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17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which was held in Mauritius from 6 to 10 May 2013. The Session reviewed the work of the Commission and focused on reinforcing and improving the catch documentation scheme, elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, data reporting along with Conservation and Management measures to ensuring sustainability of the resources in its area of competency. The meeting unanimously re-elected Mauritius as Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for the period 2013-2015.

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18. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organized by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to mark the World Biodiversity Day 2013, viz., -

- (a) open days at Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary, Bras d'Eau National Park, Black River Gorges Visitors Centre, Plaines Sophie Nature Walk and Powder Mill Nature Walk;
- (b) a Green Wave activity in all the primary and secondary schools where one critically endangered plant species will be planted; and
- (c) sensitization programs and road shows on water biodiversity.

The theme chosen for this year is **Water and Biodiversity**.

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19. Cabinet has taken note that a new building would be put up at Moka to house the Piracy Court and the District Court of Moka.

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20. Cabinet has taken note that the Award Ceremony of the Fifth Edition of the Mauritius Business Excellence Award and the launching of the Sixth Edition of the Award would be held on 28 June 2013. The main objectives of the competition are to encourage best practices for the achievement of higher productivity and competitiveness and identify role models adopting world class practices. The Fifth Edition attracted 206 participants from various sectors of the economy.

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21. Cabinet has taken note of developments in the setting up of the integrated Human Resource Management Information System in the Civil Service. The System provides for the digitization of Human Resource Management functions in the Civil Service for a speedier and more efficient service, automate Human Resource functions and facilitate interface amongst the various Ministries/Departments/Service Commissions.

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22. Cabinet has taken note that a Panel of Jury under the Chairmanship of Mr Raj Dussoye, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Bank One Ltd, has been set up to evaluate the entries received for the Sixth Edition of the Public Service Excellence Award launched in September 2012 under the theme "**Innovation & Citizens Engagement in Service Delivery**". As at 31 January 2013, forty-six entries have been received. The Public Service Excellence Award, first launched in October 2006 following an announcement made by Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, aims at reorganizing excellence and innovation and promoting a performance-oriented culture in the Public Service.

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23. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development to Cape Town, South Africa where he participated in the 23rd World Economic Forum on Africa. The theme of the Forum was **Delivery on Africa's Promise**. The focus was on accelerating economic diversification, boosting strategic infrastructure and unlocking Africa's talent.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development also participated in two panel discussions and the informal Gathering of the World Economic Leaders on the theme "**Enhancing Intra-African Trade**". In the margins of the Forum, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development had meetings with –

- (a) the Hon Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Coordinating Minister of the Economy and Minister of Finance of Nigeria with whom he exchanged views on the state of the world economy and signed two Protocols to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement;
- (b) Mr Randy Pond, Executive Vice-President, Operations, Processes and Systems and Dr Robert Peper, Vice-President, Global Technology Policy of Cisco, which is a leader in network communications;
- (c) Mr Said Ibrahimi, Chief Executive Officer of the Moroccan Financial Board, who has sought the assistance of Mauritius in the financial services sector; and
- (d) Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairperson of the World Economic Forum.

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24. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to Geneva, Switzerland where he participated in the High-level Segment of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. The High-level Segment focused on the theme: **Synergies and the implementations of the Chemicals and Wastes Conventions at the national, regional and global levels**.

In the margins of the High-level Segment, the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands had bilateral discussions with HE Mr Rolph Antoine Payet, Minister of Environment and Energy of Seychelles with whom he discussed matters relating to joint regional initiatives in the field of control of chemicals and wastes and collaboration in the field of solid and hazardous wastes.

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25. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Tourism and Leisure to Dubai where he participated in the 20th edition of the Arabian Travel Market. The Arabian Travel Market provides an excellent platform to engage with other trade partners and to showcase Mauritius and its product portfolio to the Middle East Tour Operators and Travel Agencies.

In the margins of his mission, the Minister of Tourism and Leisure had meetings with Emirates Airlines with a view to promoting Mauritius as a twin destination centre. The Minister also participated in a Ministerial Forum to discuss about how to bring synergy in Tourism and Aviation policies in a bid to foster economic growth and sustainable development.

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