

CABINET DECISIONS – 26 APRIL 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note that, at the invitation of the Rt Hon D. Cameron, Prime Minister of UK, Dr the Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister, participated in the Ceremonial Funeral of the Rt Hon Baroness Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom who passed away on 8 April 2013.

In the margins of the Funeral, the Prime Minister met a number of dignitaries, including -

- (a) the Rt Hon David Cameron, Prime Minister of UK, who thanked Mauritius for its support to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia and wished that Mauritius contribute in the post-conflict reconstruction and development of Somalia in areas, such as Judiciary, and other aspects of institutional and capacity building. He also invited the Prime Minister to attend the London Conference on Somalia scheduled for 7 May 2013;
- (b) the Hon Mark Simmonds, Minister for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who proposed to lead a delegation of British businessmen to Mauritius with a view to reinforcing trade and investment. The Hon Simmonds agreed to a request of the Prime Minister to send a team of Forensic Auditors to assist Mauritius;
- (c) the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Rt Hon Roger Gifford, who expressed the wish of building stronger ties with the financial sector of Mauritius; and
- (d) the Hon Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, with whom the Prime Minister raised the issue of Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister also met Mr Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; Mr Edward S. Miliband, Leader of the Labour Party; Mr Henry Kissinger and Mr James Baker, former US Secretaries of State; former Prime Ministers, Gordon Brown, Tony Blair, John Major; and Mr John Vincent Cable, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

2. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the International Arbitration (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the National Assembly. The objects of the Bill are to amend the International Arbitration Act in order to create the most favourable environment for international arbitration to thrive in Mauritius, resolve an ambiguity in the regime applicable to the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, and facilitate the operation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in Mauritius.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council Bill in the National Assembly. The object of the Bill is to provide for the establishment of the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council to, amongst others, register professional Quantity Surveyors, regulate and control the profession of Quantity Surveyors, and promote advancement in the field of quantity surveying.

4. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the new smart National Identity Card Project. The new Identity Card would be a polycarbonate plastic card with a number of laser-engraved information, such as name of the holder, ID number, gender, date of birth, date of issue, photograph, signature and bar code. The Card would also feature a contactless electronic chip which would securely store civil status data, photograph, address and fingerprint, as well as encoded data, and have security features to avoid tampering. The issue of the ID Cards would start in October 2013 and be completed in 2014.

5. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the air services talks held between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Governments of the Scandinavian countries, viz., Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The main objectives of the establishment of the airlinks are to enable Air Mauritius to expand its market coverage in Europe, and the tourism industry to grow in the Scandinavian countries which have a population of about 20 million. Agreement has been reached, amongst others, on the designation of airlines to operate on the agreed routes, the designated airlines of each Party to operate 14 frequencies per week, in each direction, on the specified routes, using any type of aircraft, and the operation of cargo flights.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security would promulgate the Cane (Specification of Varieties) Regulations to specify the varieties of sugar cane to be cultivated and prescribe a new variety, namely M1989/99, which would shortly be released by the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry and Research Institute. The new cane variety, which is the progeny of two Mauritian parents, namely M937/77 and M279/88, is a high yielding variety with average sucrose content suitable for middle-season harvest.

7. Cabinet has taken note of amendments that would be made to the Medical Council Act to, amongst others, enhance the quality of health service, facilitate the temporary registration of non-citizens in line with the policy of Government to make Mauritius a medical centre *par excellence*, and review procedures to deal with complaints and disciplinary measures against doctors.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the accession of the following instruments of the International Maritime Organisation –

- (a) the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage 2001, which provides for a system of prompt and effective compensation to victims of oil pollution caused by bunker (fuel) spills from non-tanker ships; and
- (b) the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances 2000, which aims at establishing national systems for preparedness and response, and provides a global framework for international cooperation to combat major incidents or threat of marine pollution.

9. Cabinet has taken note of the status in the implementation of the Rivière des Anguilles Dam project. The Dam would mobilize an additional volume of 50 million cubic metres annually to supply water to the Southern and South Western regions of the country up to Tamarin.

10. Cabinet has taken note that the COMESA Electoral Management Bodies Workshop would be held in Mauritius from 19 to 21 June 2013. The object of the Workshop is to deliberate on the establishment of a COMESA Electoral Management Bodies Forum to facilitate the enhancement of electoral processes in Member States.

11. Cabinet has taken note that the value of exports of the Export-Oriented Enterprises Sector increased from Rs10.88 billion for the period January to March 2012 to Rs11.01 billion for the corresponding period in 2013, i.e., an increase of 1.2%. Increase, in terms of value, has been registered in the following sub-sectors – Textile Yarns and Fabrics (+1.4%), Pullovers (+6.3%), Shirts (+3.4%), Trousers (+3.0%), Fish and Fish Preparations (+12.1%), and Medical Devices (+22.4%). An increase has also been recorded in exports to the UK (+1.3%), Belgium (+1.9%), Netherlands (+162.8%), Germany (+28.5%), South Africa (+3.9%) and Madagascar (+2.3%).

12. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security to Turkey and London. In Turkey, the Minister attended the High Level Ministerial Segment of the 10th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The theme of the Forum was **Forests and Economic Development**.

In London, UK the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security visited the Veterinary Clinic, and met Dr Bruce Fogle, MBE, DVM, MRCVS, Principal Veterinarian and Chairperson of the Humane Society International, UK, in connection with the setting up of a full-fledged hospital for the treatment of animals in Mauritius.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Third International Conference on International Trade and Investment, organised by the University of Mauritius under the World Trade Organisation Chairs Programme, would be held in Mauritius from 4 to 6 September 2013. The theme of the Conference will be **Non-Tariff Measures, the New Frontier for Trade Policy**. Discussions would revolve around policy implications regarding non-tariff measures which would be the prelude for future research areas.

14. Cabinet has taken note that the National Computer Board, in collaboration with the European Union and COWI, Belgium, would organize the following activities to promote Green IT –

- (a) a workshop on the European Union Code of Conduct for Data Centres;

- (b) training on Green IT; and
- (c) training on EU Code of Conduct for Data Centres and on Energy and Cost Management in Data Centres.

15. Cabinet has taken note that a Framework Agreement on Cooperation with the Principality of Monaco would be signed shortly. The main objective of the Framework Agreement would be to strengthen bilateral relations through cooperation in the fields of tourism, culture, economy, science, education, and environment for the mutual benefit of the Principality of Monaco and Mauritius.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Vice-Minister of the General Administration, Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China had, on 22 April 2013, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral trade development with a view to promoting and protecting consumer's safety and health with respect to the importation and exportation of industrial products.

17. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development to Washington D.C. where he participated in the 2013 Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, and to Finland to look at its reform experience and development model relating to education, innovation, competitiveness and public sector service delivery.

In the margins of the International Monetary Fund Meeting, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development had meetings with the Vice-President of the World Bank for Africa, Mr Makhtar Diop, and the Country Director, Ms Haleh Bridi on how the World Bank can assist Mauritius to improve the business climate and competitiveness, move on social security reform and address the problems of financing large infrastructure projects, particularly in the Water and Waste Water Sectors. He also met the IMF African Department Director, Ms Antoinette Sayeh, the Deputy Director, David Robinson and the Mission Chief, Martin Petri, with whom he discussed the review of our financial systems.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the reconstitution of –
- (a) the Board of Trustees of the Mauritius Tamil Cultural Centre Trust with Mr Soopramanien Comaren as Chairperson; and
 - (b) the Executive Committee of the National Women Entrepreneur Council with Mrs Vimi Anuradha Appadoo as Chairperson.
