

CABINET DECISIONS – 29 NOVEMBER 2013

1. Cabinet has taken note of the National Report of Mauritius on progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and agreed to its submission to the United Nations. The Report confirms the continued progress of Mauritius towards the attainment of the Goals despite the challenges posed by the successive global crises. Mauritius has, two years before reaching the target set for 2015, achieved MDG Goal 2 on Achieving Universal Primary Education. Mauritius has also been successful in eradicating extreme poverty, fighting hunger, eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, providing universal access to reproductive health and treatment for HIV and AIDS, halting and reversing the incidence of Malaria and other diseases, providing safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as well as providing access to affordable essential drugs. Mauritius has also succeeded in integrating the principles of sustainable development in its development policies and programmes.

2. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Education and Human Resources would promulgate the Education (Amendment No. 3) Regulations to provide for the holding of the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) Resit Examination. The Examination would be held in one subject for candidates who have passed in three subjects and would require one additional subject to obtain an award of the Certificate of Primary Education. The Regulations also make provision for admission to Form I of those pupils who have obtained a Certificate of Primary Education **after** the resit examination.

3. Cabinet has taken note that, under the Intelligent Mauritius Partnership Programme and with the participation of private companies, 114 free Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) zones would be set up in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The sites selected include Private Secondary Schools, Post Offices; the Commercial Centres of Bagatelle, Jumbo Riche Terre and Phoenix, La Croisette and Caudan; the Cyber Tower 1 at Ebène; the Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital (after office hours); the SSR International Airport; bus terminals; public beaches, Dr Idrice Goomany Centre and the village of l'Escalier.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Clinton Climate Change Initiative would sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a framework to implement projects that would reduce the dependency of Mauritius on oil to generate electricity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and facilitate the transition from a fossil-fuel-based to a low carbon economy. Government would also receive technical assistance, at no cost, to, *inter alia*, identify and mobilize international resources, facilitate discussions and negotiations between Government and the private sector for the implementation of projects.

5. Cabinet has taken note that the Food and Agricultural Research Council and the Commonwealth of Learning would sign a Contribution Agreement that provides, amongst others, for the consolidation of capacity building for the farming community, the establishment of a database of farmers willing to receive Open Distance Learning materials, and the development and testing of two new toolkits on pests and diseases of economic importance for important crops.

6. Cabinet has taken note that the Association of Indian Universities and the Tertiary Education Commission have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. The Memorandum provides, *inter alia*, for -

- (a) the facilitation of mutual recognition of higher education qualifications awarded to students in Mauritius and in India by their respective higher education awarding bodies;
- (b) collaboration on mutual recognition of higher education qualifications according to the rules and procedures of the respective countries; and
- (c) the Tertiary Education Commission and the Association of Indian Universities making available to each other information on currently recognized institutions in their respective countries.

The Association of Indian Universities is an association of about 500 major higher education institutions of India. Its main objective is to evaluate courses, syllabi, standard and credits of foreign universities and to equate them in relation to various courses offered by Indian Universities.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised in the context of World AIDS Day 2013, namely –

- (a) a one-day workshop to sensitize youth on HIV infection;
- (b) a “Bicycle Caravan” by the Boys Scout Association at Mahebourg;
- (c) a Testing Day at Belle Mare Public Beach;
- (d) “Journée Sportive” with People Living with HIV and AIDS at St François Stadium; and
- (e) sensitization campaigns on HIV and AIDS.

The main theme chosen for the period 2011-2015 is *Getting to Zero: Zero HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths*. Focus this year is, on *Getting to Zero - HIV and Adolescents*.

8. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, also known as Kyrgyzstan. After gaining independence from Russia in 1991, the Kyrgyz Republic embarked on a transition to a democratic system of governance; it joined the United Nations in 1992 and is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Non-Aligned Movement. The Republic acceded to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in December 1998. The establishment of diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz Republic would help articulate a more structured framework for developing trade and economic relations.

9. Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Government of Saint Lucia, an island state in the Caribbean Sea. Saint Lucia, which gained independence in 1979, is a member state of the British Commonwealth with a Westminster style of parliamentary democracy. As small island developing states, Saint Lucia and Mauritius, which share a number of similarities, have been working together at the level of the United Nations, AOSIS, ACP and WTO to defend issues of common concerns, such as problems relating to small markets, remoteness from major export markets and vulnerability to natural calamities and external shocks. The establishment of diplomatic relations would further reinforce cooperation between the two countries.

10. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to Kuwait where he participated in the Third Arab African Summit on the theme *Partners in Development and Investment*. The Summit adopted the Kuwait Declaration that calls for fostering cooperation between Arab and African countries to develop financial policies to ensure the sustainability of economic growth, consolidate programmes to fight poverty, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Post-2015 Development Programmes.

In the margins of the Summit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade had bilateral meetings with, amongst others, HE Mr Michel Suleiman, President of Lebanon; Mrs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia; HE Mr Nabil Fahmy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt; HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates; and Ms Mbraka Bouaida, Minister-Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco.
