

CABINET DECISIONS – 31 MAY 2013

1. Cabinet has agreed to the introduction of The Revenue and Valuation Appeal Tribunal Bill in the National Assembly. The main objects of the Bill are to provide for the establishment of a Revenue and Valuation Appeal Tribunal, the consolidation of existing provisions relating to the Assessment Review Committee under the Mauritius Revenue Authority Act and the Valuation Tribunal under the Local Government Act into a single enactment and the creation of a mediation process whereby parties before the Tribunal may agree to settle their dispute within a period of 90 days.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the Report of the Committee set up to look into how best procedures could be streamlined to alleviate the administrative burden in obtaining burial and incineration permits and facilitate the declaration of deaths, particularly during weekends and public holidays. The Committee has, amongst others, recommended a single comprehensive document, containing all particulars about the death of a person, to proceed for burial or incineration, and the “early” burial or incineration being extended to everyone.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the University of Mauritius, in partnership with the University of Geneva, would, as from August 2013, launch a full-fledged medical undergraduate Programme. The University of Mauritius has developed a six-year curriculum, with three years of Bachelor of Medicine followed by three years of Master of Medicine. A Doctor of Medicine degree would be awarded by the University of Mauritius on completion of the Programme. Students graduating with the degree would be eligible for pre-registration training as per the requirements of the Medical Council of Mauritius or regulatory bodies elsewhere.

4. Cabinet has agreed to the Mauritius Research Council Act being amended to review the functions, mandate and structure of the Council and establish the appropriate structure to encourage private participation in research and innovation based on the economic and social development priorities of the country.

5. Cabinet has taken note that 984 households, earning less than Rs6,200 monthly, have been paid the Child Allowance of Rs750 a month for the month of February 2013 as announced in Budget Speech 2013. Payment for the months of March and April 2013 would be effected in June 2013. As at 15 April 2013, some 3,134 new applications have been received and are being processed.

6. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the 50 years of the African Union/African Day, the PAN-African Federation of the Disabled, also known as the Disabled Women in Africa, would, from 14 to 18 October 2013, hold a Leadership Training Workshop in Mauritius for African women with disabilities. The Disabled Women in Africa, a network of organisations of disabled women, spearheads the inclusion of women with disabilities in the leadership of the Disability Movement in Africa and mainstreams disability policies in civil society, development organisations and government programmes. The main objective of the Workshop is to work out a strategic plan for the coming years.

7. Cabinet has taken note of the activities that would be organised by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in the context of the World Environment Day 2013, namely –

- (a) a half-day Interactive Youth Forum on Maurice Ile Durable, Climate Change, Food Safety and Food Security;
- (b) launching of, amongst others, the Household Compost Scheme, a three-year Endemic Restoration Programme, and the GEF/UNDP project on “Solar Powered Herbal Tea Production”;
- (c) a mass awareness campaign on the theme of the World Environment Day;
- (d) setting up of an endemic garden at Terre de Paix, Bambous; and
- (e) distribution of decorative and medicinal plants and resource materials in Port Louis, Dagotière, Rose Belle, Poudre d’Or Hamlet and the Black River regions.

The theme chosen for this year is **Think.Eat.Save.**
